

Retain the heart of a child..

[...] My Master, Babuji Maharaj, has emphasized the need for human beings to retain the heart of a child, which alone can protect us from adversity. Here is what my Master has instructed me to tell you all, my sisters and brothers.

"This heart is the seat of the soul, the very essence of the being in his frantic quest towards transcendence. Everything depends on this level. Become as little children. If life has hardened you and moved you away from the source, this is the only thing that can refresh you. Your spiritual process, as practiced in Sahaj Marg, has this objective - to make you focus on the essentials.



The need for such a heart is felt within you. Your material life may fulfill you, but often while leaving in you a feeling of emptiness, of an indefinable lack of something you know not what. An unremitting practice of meditation highlights more and more this major aspiration to be united with the divine. Such a union is the culminating achievement of a long quest, when the truth unfolds itself, and reveals itself to the seeker.

In this field of Spirituality, it is enough to want this, and to practice the system correctly. Human life has too many attractions of a fictitious life fraught with obstacles diverting man from his true destiny.

Sahaj Marg, practiced with devotion and dedication to self-improvement, and evolution, enables us to regain a wisdom, which we have lost.

It takes even abhyasis time to understand this, but that is how it is in this world, in which anything can happen, both the good and the bad. Many souls, nominated for a higher destiny, are waking up to this inner need to develop the trusting heart of a child, dependent upon its mother without any consciousness of being dependent. Such of our abhyasis who are able to develop this will go towards my divine Master, and will be guided by Him. That is the goal of our spiritual path: to meet the growing needs of humanity which is at the cusp of two worlds."

Let us not waste the precious time given to us, remembering that the sole purpose of

human life is to evolve spiritually by transcending the human condition. Human life is precariously perched on the edge of a precipice, and one can never know when a strong wind will blow us off the shelf into the abyss below. A spiritual life will take us on the journey to infinity, to a spiritual reality the attainment of which is our purpose. The law of life says that the wise must help the not so wise; the strong must help the weak; the rich must help the poor; the advanced must help those who are lagging behind on the path; and finally the Spiritually aware person must respect and love all life, knowing that everything has its place in the magnificent universe, which the spiritually enlightened alone can see, while the rest of us must accept it on faith, until our eyes too are opened to that reality. Divine Wisdom has created and pervades all Life.

[...] The essence, as my Master has stated it, is to develop the heart of a child, filled with wonder, hope and faith. May all take this message from my Master to heart, and proceed on and on towards the goal.

*P. Rajagopalachari
Chennai, 19th October 2004
Message for Lignano*

Thus speaks:

Lalaji

- *Children understand certain things so well that even the grown-ups cannot understand after much effort. Likewise, the divine vision is found to exist even in the unsophisticated village folk, men or women.*

Babuji

- *As a matter of fact knowledge picked up from books or scriptures is no knowledge at all in the real sense of word. It is simply erudition based upon other's experiences, attainment of the brain alone, and not the practical knowledge based on self experience and attainment of heart. Let this serve as a guiding light to the true seekers of the real knowledge.*

Chariji

- *We bring our hearts into prominence, allow them the kingship – which is what I think raja yoga really means – hand over the throne to its rightful occupant. "Let the heart take over, let it be the king, let it be the ruler of my existence, let it be the guide which will guide me into all directions wherever I have to go, whatever I have to do."*

Contents

| | |
|-------------------------------|---|
| Love, Essence of Spirituality | 1 |
| Thus speaks... | 1 |
| Madagascar... | 2 |
| Personal stories | 3 |
| Daily Reflections | 4 |

Centres in the Indian Ocean – Madagascar

Part One: The First 15 Years (1972-1987)

Beginnings

On June 7, 1971, Rakotondrainibe Alexandre met Babuji, and was made preceptor in October 1971. On his return to Madagascar in 1972, he created a centre with about 20 abhyasis. Simone Randriana-velo - currently a preceptor in Washington - was amongst the first abhyasis in 1972, Boda Ranjeva the current Madagascar centre-in-charge was introduced the following year, in 1973.

From 1973 to 1987: the drift

In 1973, Rako started introducing serious distortions in the practice. As abhyasis had no opportunity to go to India to see Babuji, he claimed that Babuji gave him the authorization to stand as the Master in Madagascar. "He was considered as the Master", a sister said - she witnessed the then events. Without Master's permission he appointed people from various cities across Madagascar to conduct meditations. As from 1979, he met with other Masters (in the USA and in India). "And Rajnesh of Puna was the fifth or the sixth Master he met with. He was practising Tantra Yoga; it was really horrible!! ...", said the same sister. From then on he organized Tantric sessions, he also started squeezing money out of newcomers... This situation prevailed until 1987, when Chariji first visited Madagascar.

1987: Master reaffirms the principles of Sahaj Marg

On September 1986, Rako met Chariji in Marseilles, and the idea of inviting Chariji in Madagascar is raised. Chariji reached Madagascar on September 20, 1987. Discussions took place between Chariji and Rako. In a letter addressed to Chariji on September 23, Rako underlines the justification to his stand: the purpose of preserving: "...the pure and old fundamental of Sahaj Marg"; as well as the adherence to the "...particular social context in Madagascar...". Master's letter to the abhyasis dated 26 September, described well the situation prevailing then and the steps taken by Master to remedy it.

Dear sisters/brothers,

I, Shri P. Rajagopalachari, President of the Shri Ram Chandra Mission, was recently in Madagascar for one week. On the day of

my arrival, - Sunday September 20, 1987-, I conducted two satsanghs at the Tananarive centre, in the presence of Mr. Rakotondrainibe Alexandre, and local Swamis of Tananarive. Then, when we realized that these activities were not undertaken under the framework of Shri Ram Chandra Mission, but by an independent organization called: "Centre of International Yoga", and when we realized that Sahaj Marg was not practised either, instead, there was a mixture of several philosophies, methods, worships... I commented on it to Brother Rakotondrainibe and underlined the deviations of his methods in a detailed letter which lead Brother Rako to cutting off his connection with Ram Chandra Mission. [...] Consequently, as President of the Shri Ram Chandra Mission, I withdrew the "provisional permission" granted to Mr. Rakotondrainibe, and he is not any more "Prefect" of the Mission. [...] In the same vein, he described the mixture of techniques, technologies, philosophies as appropriate to the needs of Madagascar social conditions.

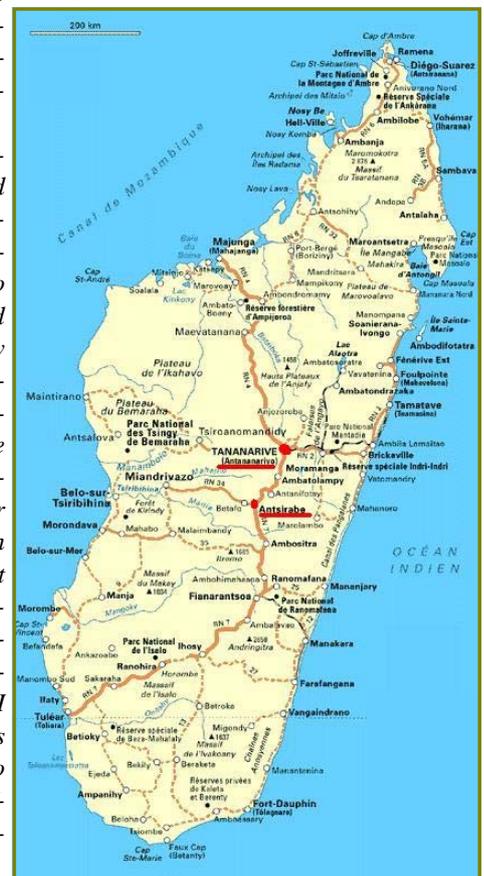
I am writing to you to inform you that during my visit, a Centre has been established in Tananarive with 6 newly appointed preceptors: Boda Ranjeva; Marie-Aude Randrianome; Lucie Raharimampianina; Nivo Ranaivoson; Alexis Randriamavo; Richard Andriamihaja. Sister Boda Ranjeva is now in charge of the Shri Ram Chandra Mission - the official organization in Madagascar - and sister Marie-Aude Randrianome is the secretary of the Mission in the country. I am writing this letter to offer our services (to serve you all), so that you can practise Sahaj Marg in its pure form, as it was offered by Shri Ram Chandraji Maharaj of Sahajanpur, and I, Shri Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari, the spiritual successor, who visited you and made it happen, I invite you to call upon us and to follow this method in its original and pure form, so that you can derive from it the benefit offered by Sahaj Marg for your spiritual evolution. [...]

As indicated in Master's letter above, during his first visit in September 1987, Chariji appointed 6 preceptors; five in An-

tananarivo, and one in Antsirabe. From that moment there were two centres in Madagascar. The first one had about fifty abhyasis meeting in Antananarivo in a place belonging to Nivo Ranaivoson. The second centre at Boda Ranjeva's place in Antsirabé, had about thirty abhyasis. By-laws were prepared and submitted on September 25, 1987 to the "political" department of the office of the President of the Executive Committee of the Antananarivo Province. Given the reputation of yoga in Madagascar based on Rako's activities related to "Rajnesh's Tantric Yoga", a preliminary inquiry was carried out by the Ministry of Police Forces and Home Affairs. The by-laws were approved on August 29, 1988.

[To be continued on next issue]

BR.; JN.



On this map, the two centers existing in 1987 are shown in red.

Personal Stories

Being a prefect in Madagascar...

"The SRCM Manakara Centre of Madagascar where I was the first preceptor is located on the littoral at about 700 km off Antananarivo, the capital city. It started with two abhyasis in 1998 and had about 17, in 2003, when I moved to the High Plateau region, in Antsirabe, 165 km off the capital.

I would like to share with you the career of a regular abhyasi, who like almost all Madagascans, was faced with pecuniary problems in the schooling of his children etc... However, I supported him and encouraged him in his practice while telling him that his problems were only momentary. Very trustful in the system, he continued practicing sincerely and regularly.... Then, one fine day, he came to see me and told me that he received money from his brother living abroad (who also meditates) which he didn't

ask him for. Since then, his material life improved. He initially opened a small shop, then a greasy spoon which became



flourishing. A few time later, he built a two store house. I was told very recently, by the preceptor who succeeded me that the area where the abhyasi was living was devastated by a fire, except for his house as the fire stopped a few inches before the house.

What I intended to share with you, brothers and sisters, is that

as long as you practice sincerely and regularly, Master cannot divert his attention from you."

My personal experience

"As for me, I meditated with the first Malagasy preceptor at the "Centre Culturel Malgache" in the capital city from 1981 to 1994, i.e. during 13 consecutive years. Eventually, I decided to stop meditating with him because I realized that my life went from bad to worse. I then prayed from the bottom of my

heart that God should lead me to the right way. In November 1994, I was introduced to Sahaj Marg by late preceptor Alexis Randriamavo (God rest his soul).

Then, when Master Chariji came to Madagascar, in the capital city in February 1998, - that is so unforgettable - he appointed me preceptor for the Manakara region where I worked from 1998 to 2003.

In 2003, I moved to Antsirabe, where the SRCM sittings and gatherings take place at my place. There are about fifty registered abhyasis. However, the number of regular abhyasis is about 25.

Moreover, as far as I am concerned, I can indicate you that this universal spiritual system helped me a lot in my life, owing to Master who relentlessly works on us. I wish him: "Long life or Lava Velona - in Malagasy."

ER

Towards an upward learning process ...

Babuji Maharaj said: "I want lions, not sheep." Such a precept actually touched my ego more than once; this is very hard to accept from a Master who was a priori supposed to be sober, upright, easy to understand. I used to be upset by such blunt teachings, sometimes radical, coming as a bombshell on to my little self. Lalaji Maharaj was even more original in his "simplicity" when he recalled that: "I require lions, not sheep. But I have admitted even sheep in my satsangh for courtesy's sake." Indeed, the rationale of the Great Masters leads us to concluding that to satisfy

their hunger, sheep waste much of their time grazing here and there while looking for good grass, good pasture; whereas lions, with faith, determination and firmness towards reaching the prey (their goal), will succeed more easily [...]

Ten years ago; I was like any searcher in spirituality, craving for many aspects of knowledge. [...] Maybe, if I were more committed, I would have become - through such researches - a third class scholar, not more. Finally, the key question here is whether without a Master of great stature, individual practice, horizontal training, extended research can actually alleviate the samskaric or karmic burden?

So, to achieve the goal, to reach a higher level of consciousness, to develop highly subtle thoughts, to become a lion, to be as one with Master are the many issues I am trying to address through Him; and, I am convinced that there is only one answer to this: to comply with His instructions, to follow His footsteps; as for the remainder, decisions are His. Then, this takes us back naturally to this old Karma Yoga precept: "don't worry about the outcome of your work; it does not belong to you". We also do remember Chariji' precept according to which: "To obey, is above all to be surrendered to the Master". I am really convinced that: "to obey", is also to learn with determination and dedication.

Because, where His method becomes and remains truly our only alternative, is also the starting point, by His grace of our true spiritual quest in His infinite knowledge.

In a nutshell, only an upward training process in His wake will guide - in my opinion - our way towards light and fusion.

RMR

