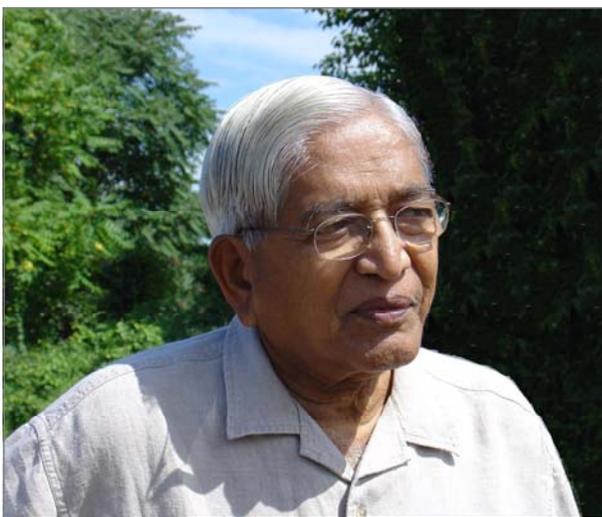


The Art of Listening to Nature

[..] My Master used to say that a spiritual guide need not speak at all. As you know, Babuji Maharaj spoke very little. He said, "If and when a guide has to speak, it should be only to teach us about what we have to do, how to do it, when to do it, where to do it, and of course, why to do it. [..]"

Babuji used to say something else much more relevant you see, that Nature speaks. He used to stoop down and lift a small flower and say, "This speaks." He used to say, "If you look up at the sky or the stars, they speak



to you." But do we know what they are speaking? Do we listen to them? [..] We have lost the art of listening. [..]

Babuji said, "Nature is silent when it has no burdens to bear.[...] "When Nature speaks, when do we listen? When the speech of Nature, when its messages, when its signals, appear to us violent." Babuji said, "Nature is never violent." [..]

Nature is not angry, you see. [..] So as long as we continue to burden this world of ours, this planet with our grossness, we must expect more and more of these violent outbreaks in terms of human reaction, which can be wars; causes can be any - a cause can be sharing of water, it can be religion, it can be a belligerence across the border; it can be anything. We

don't need many excuses to fight. So let us remember that it depends on us; we create the world in which we live. [..]

Now we are all here as spiritual aspirants. We are not just

human beings going around accumulating grossness; we are spiritual human beings accumulating grossness, and in this case the grossness is even more tough, poisonous, bitter in its effects. Because, knowing we shouldn't do it, we do it. [..] Spirituality looks for its success on very few principles. Love of course is the paramount one. If there is love you don't need anything else. If not, you need tolerance, you need faith, you need courage, and you must not have prejudices. Courage can come only where there is faith. [..] And courage is based on what? On the faith that He is with me. But this faith is not enough. If you think, "He is with me; therefore I will not be washed off in the waters of the ocean," that is not faith. If you think, "My house will not collapse be-

cause Babuji is with me," that is not faith; that is wishful thinking.

Faith says, "Whatever may happen to me, He is with me; and when He is with me, it can only be for my good."

Now how many of you are willing to think like that, or accept the truth of such a faith? We don't want such a faith. So we turn away from spirituality, go back to our temple, thinking the god in the temple is more powerful and he will protect me.

But even temples are washed away. [..]

So we have to have faith which means, whatever may happen to me, if my Master is with me, it is for my good - even death is for my good. [..]

So faith does not mean we will be successful in life; faith does not mean that we will not be sick. It does not mean anything. It only means - I have faith. I have faith in Him who is my beloved, my Master. He can do nothing which is bad for me, though it may appear to me bad. So, that faith can only give us courage. [..]

Thank you.

*Shri Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari
New Year's Day, 2005,
Babuji Memorial Ashram, Manapak-
kam, INDIA*

Thus speaks:

Lalaji

• *Happiness is not anywhere outside. It is in our fixing the attention, in the steadiness of disposition, and in the withdrawal of our mind. Those who know this secret need not search for happiness outside.*

Babuji

• *We should never come to a hasty conclusion without due consideration and trial, through the help of reason and experience. When we are finally convinced of the merits of the thing, we may stick to it with faith and constancy. Faith thus reposed shall be genuine and lasting, while faith promoted by inducement offered by outwardly attractive features and display of pretty materialistic achievements is no faith at all but may rightly be termed as persuasion. It has no stable foundation to rest upon and disappears under ordinary adverse circumstances.*

Chariji

• *Only one in so many billions comes to this way of searching for God by the way of happiness and health and success. All the other billions come through frustrations, sorrow, misery, disease, failure.*

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Master's 81st Birth Anniversary

The text below is being proposed in the context of the preparation and celebration of our beloved Master's 82nd birth anniversary.

My Mother

As I look back upon my life from the lofty eminence of sixty-five years, geriatrically speaking of course, the earliest memory that I am able to draw out of my inner self is that of my beloved mother, Janaki. I see her lying stiff and motionless in a long, rectangular receptacle, packed with ice, surrounded by a large number of weeping adults of all ages. I was sorry for her, thinking how cold she must feel, packed in that fashion with all that ice around her, and this made me weep too. I naturally assumed that all the others were weeping for the same reason. Since I was only five years old, I had no knowledge of death.

My mother had been delivered of her fourth child less than a fortnight earlier. [...] The delivery was conducted by a local midwife and there had been no difficulty at all. Everyone was happy that a female child had arrived, since her first three children were all boys. On the 10th day after her delivery, my mother was given a ritual purificatory bath in cold water, out in the open yard. [...]

However, since she had her bath out in the open, my mother immediately caught a cold. This seems to have been neglected as a 'mere cold' and before anyone was even aware of it, it had developed into the dreaded pneumonia. [...] My dear mother was gone a few days later, before anyone even realised that there was something serious, and that death had been knocking at her door for some time. Poor, dear girl - she was hardly more than a girl - she was the victim of crass superstition, and her young life was snuffed out like a candle. [...]

Even though I have practically no memory of any personal interaction with my mother, I have always had a deep and abiding love for her. How much I loved her, and how tremendously I missed her, no one can ever know or understand. [...] I have wept many a long and bitter hour during all the awfully lonely nights of my childhood

and youth, when desolation that I had no mother to look after me and love me would flood me with a sorrow and bitterness that I could hardly endure. I don't think that even my father ever suspected this aspect of my inner life. Many mystical persons have told me that her dear departed soul was always hovering around me, protecting me, and this only deepened my desolation and despair, for the one thing that a person cannot



ever acquire a second time is a mother. [...] I have inherited all my physical traits from my mother - my height, the poor eyesight [...] in fact everything. I am supposed to have inherited such mental capabilities as I possess from my father. But the greatest gift that I have received from my beloved mother was revealed to me very many years later by my Revered Master, Shri Ram Chandraj Maharaj. We were seated together in my Master's bedroom in Shah-jahanpur one bitter winter night. It was 1:00 A.M. in the morning. My Master was in a reminiscent mood, as if he was nostalgically looking into the past. We had been speaking about my father and his tremendous personal qualities. My Master was praising my father for the qualities of his heart, and said, "He has the heart of a lion. His heart is like the heart of my Master, Lalaji Sahib. He has great courage and strength of heart. But your heart is tender and soft like mine. You have inherited your heart from your mother. I am happy about this!" So that was the divine gift that my mother bestowed upon me - her soft and loving heart - as was confirmed to me by my Master himself. I must admit that I have never felt, or thought, that I had a soft heart! But there it is, and for that most noble and loving gift, I shall be eternally grateful to my beloved mother. There is no

doubt that it has been an important contribution to my spiritual life. I think of it as my spiritual capital gifted to me by my beloved mother.

After I came to the feet of my Divine Master, Babuji Maharaj, I once wrote to him about her, praying to him to benevolently shower his grace upon her. I wrote to him about her twice from my office, because a tremendous feeling of gratitude and love for her overpowered my being. Even though I was reluctant to bother my Master, I was compelled to write to him about her to request him to assist her soul on its onward path towards the Goal. Rather typically, my Master did not answer those letters. A month or so after I had written my second letter to him he came to Madras. As soon as he came to our house Gayathri, one of the first things he asked me was, "Can you show me a photograph of your mother?" [...] I brought down from the wall the only photograph of my mother that we had, and gave it to him. He put on his glasses and studied the photograph keenly for a few minutes. Then he looked at me with a deep love shining from his eyes, and said, "Your mother was a very good lady, and she loved you very much. She has not yet taken rebirth. I shall pray to Lalaji Sahib for her."

A few days later, we had gone to Shri Vira Raghavan's place for Sunday satsangh. Master was staying with us at Gayathri. As soon as we returned home, Master asked me, "Are you free for a few moments?" I said I of course had all the time in the world for him. He took me upstairs to the room which we rather pretentiously called our library, from which my Master did all the important spiritual work that he did when he was with us. There he said, "Today by the grace of Lalaji Maharaj your mother has been granted her liberation. It was done during the satsangh. Now I shall give you the proof of it. Please sit in meditation." I protested that I needed no proof, but he insisted. Rather unusually, he did not sit in his usual seat, but put on his cap - which he does only when Lalaji Sahib pays a visit - and sat next to me, facing the empty seat in front of us - the seat of the Master! He said, "Now your mother will transmit to you."

Continued on page 3

Administrative Reminders

Echoes of Africa and Indian Ocean wishes to share with you some practical information about travels to India as well as the delivery of SRCM International ID cards.

Travel Requests

“Dear Brothers....,

There are too many emails circulating regarding travel requests to Master, Ajay or Kamlesh and never to an appropriate person. Kindly announce it in future news letters on the front page that all travel related inquiries MUST be sent to Brother Satbir Bakshi who can be reached at travelrequest@srcm.org.

Preceptors and functionaries in their enthusiasm misdirect abhyasis to write to Master or Br. Ajay about their travels.

...

Affectionately,
Kamlesh”

ID Requests

Centres-in-charge and preceptors are kindly requested to inform all abhyasis from Francophone Africa, that from now on, ID requests must be sent to India through the Regional Coordinator, Sister Jeanne Nanitelamio. The application form and a Passport Color size photograph are to be sent to the following address:

Jeanne NANITELAMIO

18 B, Rue Haute

L-1718 Luxembourg

G.D. of Luxembourg

Email : jnanitelamio@gmail.com

Please note that a US \$10 (ten) voluntary donation is suggested for processing the ID Card. Given the money transfer problems existing in the sub-region, arrangements will be made to find the best way for abhyasis, to do these donations. Centre-in-charge and preceptors will be informed in

due time about this.

What to do After Satsangh?

We have been reminded by Brother Kamlesh, Region-in-charge, about the advisable attitude after a satsangh. All Centres-in-charge and preceptors are recommended to comply with this reminder in their respective centers.

“Dear Brother,

We should try and minimise activities after group meditations. Only thing permitted is to either watch DVD or listen to His talks or some one read a passage or so from Sahaj Marg literature. DVDs of Masters are priority.

[..]

Kindly consider.

Kamlesh”

Satsangh Schedule for Rev. Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari Birth Anniversary Celebrations (24, July 2008)

All abhyasis who are not able to attend Rev. Master's Birth Anniversary Celebrations in Lucknow will celebrate the day on the 24th July 2008 in their respective centres. Two satsanghs are recommended.

The time of the two satsanghs will be fixed according to local convenience

Brief reports with photos may please be sent for inclusion in Echoes of Africa and Indian Ocean.

Celebrating Master's Birthday in the Centres

Yaoundé (Cameroon)

Master's anniversary in Cameroon will be celebrated by all abhyasis in Yaoundé. It will be the opportunity to inaugurate the new meditation place. The program will take place from 23 to 25 of July. It will include: a satsangh every day; a public conference on July 23 at 6:00 p.m. on the topic: "Discovering the benefits of meditation in the system of Rajah Yoga"; and work-groups on "The role of the Master", and "Master and the abhyasi"; on July 24 between morning and evening satsangh.

M.B.

Pointe-Noire (Congo-Brazzaville)

In Pointe-Noire, for our Revered Master anniversary, two satsanghs will be held at 9:00 a.m. and 5:00 p.m.. In between, reading sessions and fraternal exchanges will take place.

F.N.

Libreville (Gabon)

In Libreville, the celebration of Master's anniversary will be preceded on July 23 by the usual Wednesday satsangh. As for the 24 of July, a discussion will take place at 4:00 p.m. on 2 topics "The importance of the Gourou" and "Obedience". The exchanges around these topics will be followed by a satsangh at 5:00 p.m.

J.D.D.N.N

Visit to Yaïka (Burkina-Faso) and Abidjan (Côte d'Ivoire)

From July 22 to 27, sister Jeanne Nanitelamio Regional Coordinator for Francophone Africa, will visit 2 centres in West Africa: Yaïka in Burkina-Faso and Abidjan in Côte d'Ivoire. She will be accompanied by Brother Jean-Pierre Mbougou Batiako and Brother Michel Mouyelo-Katoula. A full report and pictures will be published in the issue of August 2008.

My Mother (Continued from page 2)

Please meditate." I sat in meditation. I immediately felt as if my mother had taken me on her lap, and was lovingly caressing me, crooning to me. I had tears in my eyes. Master terminated the sitting after some ten minutes, and asked me what I had felt. I

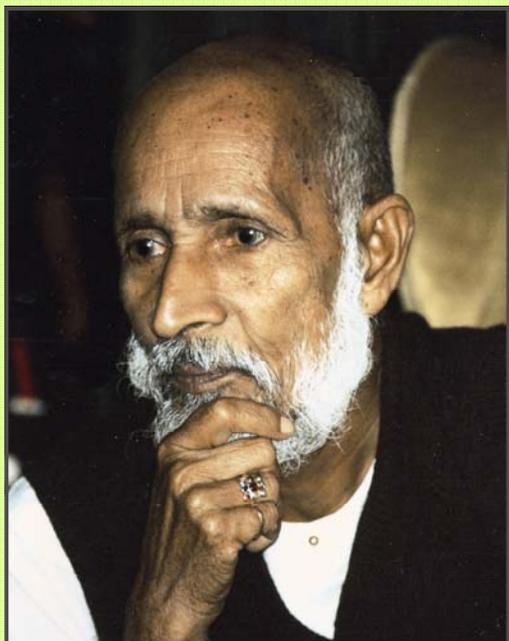
related the experience to him. He said, "Yes! That was exactly what happened. Now see, that is the mother's love which you experienced. But now she wants to go. Who will stay in this unfortunate and ill-destined world after liberation! She is in a

hurry to go. She is blessing the Mission, and blessing it to grow and grow!"

Excerpt from: "Down Memory Lane" By P. Rajagopalachari; pp 3-16

Whispers From the Brighter World

Saturday, August 21, 2004 – 10:00 a.m.



One can only fulfil an open and loving heart soliciting our favours. Can one force a flower to open out under the beneficial rays of the sun, when the moment for it has not yet come! To some extent, we must respect this law, according to which the Master appears when the student is ready. Then his heart will continue his search; it will open up to love and, stage by stage, and he will discover the secret mysteries of it.

"In our way, we have seen many hearts behaving like that. The harvest is already looking glorious; we are delighted for them and for our Mission. It is thus justified to the divine powers supporting our action. Each period of the history of the world, in the most distant times, saw the birth of a teaching fitting to the prevailing evolution. Here, we are at a transitional point of this history and it is advisable to prepare for what humanity will be facing! Its life, its customs, its way of conceiving the existence of God and the way of uniting with Him, all this must change in the future.

"Our teaching, as a whole, corresponds to the spirit of the future, as it will prevail on this Earth where life will no longer be what it is today. More simplicity and rigour will lead men towards a higher destiny. They will be 'mutants' compared to what they are today. Upheavals of all kinds, including in their DNA, will change the face of the world.

"All will take place in due time. Although the process has already started, nothing today can allow men to foresee such a change. Our active brothers in sadhana will be ready to face up to any event."

Babuji

Daily Reflections

Decision Making

If you find it difficult to make up your mind, sit in meditation with the question in your mind. An answer will surely emerge, though you may have to meditate again and again till the answer does come.

Taken from *The Spider's Web*, vol. 3, p. 5 -Rev. Chariji

Be Positive

What we think about we become. So when you are always afraid, that which you are afraid of is coming nearer and nearer to you. A man who is afraid of dogs and is walking on the street, every dog in the neighborhood barks at him. If you are not afraid, they don't bother you. It is because

when you are transmitting your fear, there is something, which receives it and responds. So, it is absolutely important, necessary, not to broadcast negative thoughts because we are inviting these negative elements into our life.

Taken from *"Revealing the Personality"*, chapter "Relationships", pg 65 -Rev. Chariji



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