



Love is the Essence of Spirituality

Dear Brothers and Sisters, We are all here to participate in the dedication of this ashram to my great Master Babuji Maharaj. [...] And remember, this is a Shri Ram Chandra Mission ashram. It has nothing to do with caste, creed, race, sex, occupation, anything. It is for human beings of all colours, of all creeds, of all faiths, who will eventually come here only to give up everything, including their colour, their creed, and their faith, remembering Babuji's great saying, 'Where religion ends, spirituality begins'. We don't give up religion; religion gives us up. We are no longer Hindus or Muslims or Buddhists or Christians. We are devotees of the Lord who did not create religion, who did not create nationality, who did not create patriotism - who created human beings and charged us to love each other, to be brothers and sisters, to live in mutual harmony, mutual trust and mutual love.



Love is the religion of spirituality, not worship. We don't worship our Master; worship is for beggars. Babuji Maharaj has said, "Prayer is begging." [God, give me this, give me that.] [...] Here, we don't ask. Because when we think of the Almighty as all-knowing, as love personified, my Guru Maharaj, Babuji Maharaj said, it is an insult to Him to go and ask Him, as if He

doesn't know your *parishthithi* [situation], your condition, as if He has no love for you that He sees you suffer, to such an extent that we say God is blind. If God is blind, then what are we human beings? We look and see, and He doesn't see? [...] You see, we have inverted the whole concept of God and human beings, and made ourselves all-knowers and He is the blind fellow who is sitting up there with no ears, no nose, no senses, therefore knows nothing. But yet, we pray; we pray like hell.

Sahaj Marg is one of the agencies, the spiritual agencies, vested with the obligation, the duty, of serving human beings, to redeem themselves in His eyes and become true lovers of God - who live for Him, by Him and in Him. [...] When we come to spirituality, we give

without taking away from anybody else. Transmission, because it is from the Divine Himself, in giving you don't take from anybody else. That is why it is divine, that is why it is universal; that is why we must not distinguish between people when He doesn't distinguish between people. The sunlight is for all. [...] Sunlight is universal, air is universal, water is universal. So the Lord says, my transmission is my own love, given to you through the heart of one whom I choose to represent me on earth, who is called your spiritual guide. He gives without any partiality to all those who seek it.

[...] I charge all of you who claim to be Sahaj Marg aspirants, with this solemn duty that you shall forget your separatist tendencies, everything that separates you from other human beings, your caste, your colour, your provincialism, your nationalism. [...] We are part of a universe which is teeming with life, and in His eyes, all life is one. So with these words, I invoke my Master's blessings on all of you. May you make yourselves fit to carry on this brave, new, noble world and create it as you go along. May my Master's wishes be fulfilled, in you, and through you.

Thank you.

A talk given by Shri Parthasarathi Rajagopalachari on 6th February, 2004

Thus speaks:

Lalaji

- *In essence, man is one, rather the entire creation seems to be one. Conjunction and action have created conditions of difference in its forms.*

Babuji

- *Love is really a wonderful thing. On developing real love the considerations of high and low, great and small, would all vanish, and all would appear equal.*

Chariji

It is only in a spiritual family that we can have love united with discipline; where we can have love with arguments; where we can have love with differences between ourselves; where we can have love uniting people of many races, many tongues, many professions – because there is the silk thread of love that runs through us and holds us together!

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With Master in Dubai from 19-21 January 2011

As is customary in the Echoes of Africa and Indian Ocean, we wish to share herein with our brothers and sisters the moments of grace we have lived and which are so typical of physical encounters with our Master. These meetings do not benefit us alone as we involve in them, in spirit, our brothers and sisters, especially those from our region. Let them live these blessed moments which Master recently granted to us from January 19-21.

On Our Way to Him

Our last encounter with Master, in Dubai too, dated back to October 2008.

We were then living closer, in Tunis, from where we could reach Dubai after a six hour flight. This time around, our trip Washington DC was 19 hours long, yet it seemed shorter. Going towards Master, going to Him always puts us in a special state of heart impulses and feverishness. Going towards Him, one is suffused with a special energy that makes these trips different from mundane ones. The trip and any discomfort associated with it are not experienced in the same way; it is all justified, it is all meaningful, because it is geared towards one same goal: to be with Him.

Being with Him

We reached Dubai in a few hours before Master who arrived on 19 January early afternoon. We meet with Him later in the afternoon and He conducts a satsangh that immediately immerses us in His vibration. It accompanies us throughout our stay in Dubai.

The next morning, on January 20, Master gave a satsangh at the Iranian Club. It was the last meditation in these premises where Sahaj Marg activities have been carried out for years. This truly moving satsangh pre-



ceded the inauguration of the meditation hall held the next day.

The new meditation hall inaugurated on January 21 is located on the first floor of a new and modern tower. The premises also include a beautiful terrace. The surroundings – a real "forest" of towers – are quite surreal and modern; they underline however that spiritual life lends itself to any kind of environment even one that seems particularly disconnected from nature. Master delivered his speech to a crowd of about a thousand brothers and sisters mostly from the sub-region, from Pakistan and countries from various corners in the world who gathered in the hall and on the terrace. Master underlined the power of love, which alone allows to overcome the differences, all differences.

Throughout the days spent with Master, we once again witnessed that with Him, everything is a teaching opportunity. He truly sets a living example of the teachings of our way. He is above all and makes every-

thing educational. Whatever our individual or collective worries, he addresses them from a broader perspective, characterizing them as the facets of human nature. Responding to a brother who com-

plains about a government's restrictions on spiritual activities, Master broadens the matter by noting that it is not specific to the country cited, as all world governments do the same. This example underscores that Master is aware of the realities of this world as well as any issue that can arise in any country.

He truly guides, leads and enlightens. He knows, he reconciles; he does not consider anything special or unique. As to Him everything partakes of human nature, he invites us to look into ourselves and to surpass ourselves. That way, we can understand that what is deemed peculiar or irreconcilably different is simply inherent in human nature. He is truly the one being who breaks down all man-made differences and barriers. He magnifies everything and makes true brotherhood take on its real meaning. He is the embodiment of love in action.

This may be partly why we do feel in His presence a deep feeling of well being, of being at our rightful place. Though the outside world remains as the backdrop

Continued on page 3

With Master in Dubai from 19-21 January 2011— Cont'd

against which we operate, what matters is the universe of His presence and His vibration. Being with Him leads you into that universe where time is suspended. The more you interiorize yourself while in his presence, the better you feel it. It is highly tempting to consider only his physical being and to be distracted by the surrounding hustle and bustle. Yet, being centered makes it easier to establish the



right connection with the hearts of brothers and sisters who are also him around. His physical presence facilitates one's interiorization and helps enjoy his vibrations.

Master, laughter, various memories, philosophical reflections, religious references, silence, group sittings and allegory.

Excerpts of Master's comments

Master was in the mood to talk, to communicate with his disciples, to teach them. Brothers and sisters from his entourage said with amazement that they had not seen and heard him display so much energy for so long. He had almost no rest during the day, not even after meals. Even when he retired to his room after lunch or dinner, to rest, he was surrounded by abhyasis with whom he spent several hours talking or rather teaching them on various topics. He always peppered his comments with jokes or stories for laugh or rather as food for thought. As usual, each comment is punctuated with specific references to Babuji's teachings and life. Master makes us live in the remembrance of his Master: it's a sublime lesson of constant remembrance. Also, as usual, there were moments of silence meant to interiorize oneself and better absorb the graces he bestows on us. His teachings include references to his



Master is a master of allegory. To talk about the art of teaching without coercion, he alludes to the sun whose warmth opens out a rose flower, which force cannot do.

Master has a sense of discipline. A spiritual journey requires discipline, just like raising a child without discipline is a priori doomed to failure.

Master speaks his mind, when speaking of the Master who harvest suffering in return for the pleasure he gives to the world, while holders of material power give suf-

fering and reap pleasure.

Our departure

We left Dubai later in the night of January 21. We spend the end of the afternoon, the last moments of our stay with Master. Very attentive, as usual, He asked, "What time is your flight? We answered "at 1:50 AM." Masters continued, "you must be at the airport no later than 11 PM." Then a little later, looking at his watch, he said: "you

must go now, goodbye and good luck" and "Love to all."

We're return to the hotel to pack up and rush to the airport. It all went very fast, our stay was short. But we left with the impression that we stayed a long time with Him.

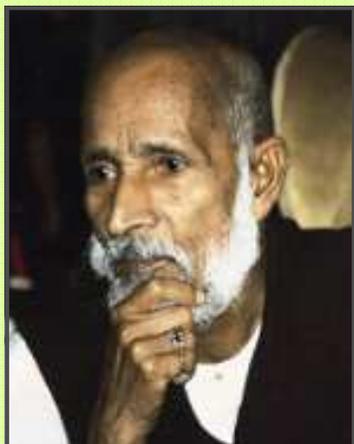
Thank you Master,

JN-MMK



Whispers from the Brighter World

Friday, March 28, 2003 – 10:00 a.m.



When will man understand that only love can save the world?

“This word is so often overused, distorted or half-heartedly used, even in a spiritual way like ours. This concept is misunderstood and abstract; it cannot be proved by a rational explanation. Only a completely open and receptive heart can feel its benefits. A true spiritual process necessarily leads to it and intensely puts it into practice. It is the only food that the soul enjoys. It must be sought and maintained carefully. It is the supreme refuge. God being love, it is inseparable from faith, and without it faith cannot really blossom.

“We can never extol it enough; in these troubled times for the world, one can only note how desperately it is lacking in men. The great revelation will be hearts being conquered by its unique power, since it is the highest expression of the Divine. It is ignored, misunderstood, the hearts not being ready and willing to receive it. This conquest will take place. It will take time, but to God nothing is impossible.

“You who are open to its impacts, you who are longing to only be Love, surrender and compassion—cultivate this power in yourself carefully. Let it grow and invest completely your heart. That is what we wish you, with our blessings.”

Babuji

Whispers from the Brighter World vol 1- page 546.

Daily Reflections

Success

When you begin a thing with the idea that you won't be able to complete it you will never do it. The success of the work always lies in one's own will and confidence.

Taken from the Book "Letters of the Master, Vol. 1", Chapter "1959", pg. 395, by Babuji Maharaj.

Spiritual Evolution

If you avoid pain, Nature will give you pain because it is essential to mould you

for spiritual evolution. Like gold has to be melted, shaped, the dross removed - it is a process. Tapasya [penance] comes from the word 'tapa' – heat. You have to undergo the fire of human life, and anybody who seeks to avoid it has his evolution delayed.

Taken from the book "Heart Speak 2004, vol. 1", pg. 89 -by Chariji.

Right Thinking

Sahaj Marg says thought is everything - not intelligence. Intelligence is an offshoot. When the thinking is right, when the application of thought is right, it is intelligence. When it is wrong, it is foolishness.

Taken from the Book "Heart Speak 2005", Chapter "Use your Self to Change Yourself", pg. 17, by Revered Chariji.



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