



Rev. Master's 83rd Birthday Celebrations

Tiruppur, India 2009



This historic Utsav of the Mission was held from the 23rd to 25th July 2009 at Diamond Jubilee Park ashram in Tiruppur. Around thirty five thousand abhyasis from over sixty countries gathered, demonstrating their deep and committed love for their Master. The elaborate arrangements made by the local functionaries and volunteers made it possible for all abhyasis to go through the celebrations in reasonable comfort and security.

On the 24th Master read out a message from Babuji Maharaj specially sent for the occasion.

Dear Brothers and Sisters,

I have received a message from my revered Master, Babuji Maharaj, and I have to share it with all of you because it is important for every abhyasi to listen carefully to what he has conveyed to us, and to follow the advice that is given here. This is what Babuji Maharaj has said.

“Lord Krishna blesses our way for what it is, and for what it will become, within the framework of an expansion of consciousness, the principles for which is set in motion. Our Mission is making progress to that effect. Our Beloved son, your Master, is acting fully towards this prospect. Time is pressing; don't look back anymore, except for memories of admiration and gratitude towards a perfect Being equipped with all that which constitutes the divine greatness manifested here below, and who had illuminated the world at a time of obscurantism - as far as this great figure of our history is concerned.” (Of course, he is referring to himself and to Lalaji Maharaj).

“Your objective must be: advance, serve, and contribute to the greatness of our Mission in all its forms here and now, and open doors, those of the Spirit, in all its manifestation. That is the objective of the present. Man looks back; that is in his nature, but he must forge ahead, especially in this pivotal period when everything can change course from one moment to the next. Time is pressing. 'The inconceivable' is in the offing; you should focus your efforts accordingly.

Be creative and vigilant. Draw your inspiration from the past to better build a future, more in adequacy with the objectives of the higher powers. All the great Beings turn their attention to man's elevation - a very vast subject - for an objective excluding any error, which would be fatal for him.

Explore what we offer to you with more attention. Your minds caught up in the upheaval of 'modernism', don't see the main thing anymore. Deepen our teachings, including this celestial manna represented by these messages. You don't realize how important they are. They have nothing sensational, on the face of it, but they radiate energy and a truth, which few hearts really grasp. You should interiorize yourselves and advance on the way of love; there lies the main thing and the strength of the future world, cleaned up and restructured for its safeguarding.

Divest yourselves of useless things and get to the main thing; don't waste your time with that which is not worth it. Be vigilant, time flies and cannot be made up. Serve your Master as best you can and love him above all; there lies your greatest and most beautiful challenge. Our special blessings to you all in this period of the birthday of my beloved son,” signed Babuji Maharaj.



Following is Master's talk given on 25th July at the concluding session.

I was lost in the *bhajan* [devotional song] and the mood that it evoked inside, and suddenly I have been asked to say a few words! All that I can say is that daily you see on your computer screen one message from my Master. The frequency of his communication must impress upon our hearts the need for deeper and deeper understanding, more and more dedication in our practice, in our faith, and better and better utilization of the time available to us. When I asked Babuji Maharaj, "What is wisdom?" he said, "Live as if you are going to die the next moment." *Live as if you are going to die the next moment.* If that is the sentiment which we adopt in the conduct of our life, we won't fool around looking for pleasures, diversions, amusements, gratification. We will put our soul into every moment of our existence, and that is the only way to build the future.

So what can I say which my Master is not telling us every morning? We have had two volumes of 'Whispers from the Brighter World'. I am in the process of preparing the third volume. And as they say in Islam, *Insha-Allah* [God willing], there will be a fourth volume. I look upon these four volumes, when they are eventually produced, as the four Vedas of our Sanatana Dharma, because these are indeed not *smriti* but *shruti* (received knowledge, not mentated, not thought, not intellected). And that is the highest knowledge that we as human beings can receive when we are privileged to have a guru of that stature who can communicate with us from what he calls the Brighter World. And some of these messages, you know, they show us what an unhappy, miserable existence is ours on this earth which we think is the best, of which we think so much, to which we are so much attached, and from which we do not want to depart, all because of the body consciousness that we have, which makes it possible to fool ourselves through the pleasures of the five senses.

You see what an illusory world we live in, what in Sanskrit we call *maya* (illusion). And to get out of this illusion we must be like a spider. I was thinking early this morning of a spider which weaves a web, beautiful web. If you see a spider's web on a winter morning with the sun rising behind it, you see its beauty. They are wonderful strands in which are traps for everything in life, but from which the spider can escape. It is not caught in its own web. But we are caught in our own web. We weave webs of fancies, webs of desires, webs of ambition, and in these small steps of what we call advancement in this world, whether it be for money or power or position, we are satisfied, we think we are masters of this earth, and because of our attachment we are doomed to come again and again until this is broken.

These bhandaras should most of all awaken us to the reality of the situation that we are living in an illusory, unreal world, full of false promises, temptations, traps. And to escape out of this, some sort of teaching is offered, some sort of instruction is given, and in these sessions of meditation that we participate in, we lose ourselves. And suddenly you wake up, when we say, "That's all," and often, if you have gone deep enough, you are bewildered as to where you are. You don't know for some moments where you are, what you are, and why you are here. I hope you all experience such states of being, which show us that the ultimate condition is one of nowhere, not now, not here. Then where? It is in such a condition that we are in a world where there is no time, there is no place, there is no knowledge. In fact that is the divine realm which Babuji Maharaj calls the Brighter World.

I am happy to see so many of you here. I hope to see more and more in future years because that is the way things must grow. This must spread. I was talking to some young persons this morning of the trap into which religion puts us - every religion, all religions, everywhere in the world. False promises, useless practices, if I may be permitted to say so, unholy loyalties. If a god has to tempt me and promise me things which even God cannot deliver, then what is that religion worth? Why are we addicted to it? Why are we grovelling before false gods? There are false gods, but only one true God. *Ekam sat* [The Truth is one].

So it is time to say goodbye to religion. As Babuji says, "Where spirituality begins, religion ends." We don't give up religion. We don't preach that we destroy religion. We are not here to break temples or idols. We are here to find the truth, what we call *akhlaaq*. What is the truth? Where is He? Babuji Maharaj says if He is anywhere, He is in your heart. And he says if He is not here (pointing to heart), for you He is nowhere. Please understand this carefully. If He is not here, He (meaning God) is nowhere for you.





So our only temple, our only place of worship, our only place where we can meet God as a lover is the heart. So Sahaj Marg only talks of the heart, transmission from the heart, love from the heart, not from the head. Because we all think that we love without loving. We *think* we love. But when the truth comes, love is never spoken about. There is no grandiose flourish, there are no embellishments. It's only a look from the eye, you see. As Babuji said, a flower does not broadcast itself and say, "Look here, I am beautiful, I am perfumed." It is. In a similar way, God is. Other than Him there is nothing. And when we are there, we can say, "We are - He and I." This is what the Krishna Leelas are all supposed to be about, you know- the Divine dance of existence, of eternal existence, perpetually happy, perpetually moving, perpetually dissolving, perpetually reuniting. With a purpose? Of course. We don't understand what it is but He knows.

As Babuji says again and again in many of his messages, they know. What they know, they tell us. What they want us to do, they instruct us. What we need by way of assistance, they give us. Above all, they love us. In the latest message which I read out yesterday, He says, "They are working for the elevation of humankind." All of us, everywhere, no prejudice about colour, caste, race, religion, anything. For them we are human beings. But for us, even the unity that God is, we have split up into your god and my god and no god. My god is not your god, your god is not my god. We fight, we kill each other, we have wars. Today's wars are all about religion. The biggest problem facing humanity today is RELIGION. Capital R, capital E, write it all in capitals. And if you have the ability to do so, like a computer, erase. I have to speak forcefully about this because on one side we see a handful of new abhyasis every year, and we see more and more converts to the other side, the dark side if I may say so, of our approach to God - religion.

Please take this to heart. Think over it. You must learn to think even about your god, about your faith, about your belief. Am I believing in the right thing? Can this be God because everybody says this is God? God is everywhere. Not because He is everywhere. Because everywhere is His. That is where He is. Like you cannot say of the breeze that it is here and not there. And I repeat, if He is everywhere, He is in my heart. For one in whose heart there is no God, he will die Godless, a most tragic situation, because under such a condition if a man leaves this life, Babuji said even God cannot say what his future is going to be.

I pray that all of you will awaken, you see, to this truth that I have been living a life of illusion, of belief in things of which I know nothing, of loyalties to things which don't deserve my loyalty, of love for things for which there is no possible love. Because today we love ice cream, we love pizza, we love this, we love that. We love everything but God.

So, sisters and brothers, I would like to close this beautiful bhandara by requesting you all to wake up and remember the most important statement I have heard from my Master. Every statement is important, but that which shook me - because I, too, followed a religious way of life till my marriage - not worshipping idols and stones and all that, but believing in many things that were told to me. And this shook me, what Babuji said. He said, "Religion has no God, God has no religion."

Thank you.

This celebration will be etched in the minds and hearts of all participating abhyasis. The feeling of brotherhood felt by abhyasis hailing from different cultures and linguistic groups, who meditated together, mixed together in dining halls, canteens and had serious meetings for coordinating the Mission's activities on a global scale. There was perceptibly a higher level of self-discipline and orderliness among abhyasis who seemed to walk in His consciousness all the time.

The loving, benign, protective and towering presence of Master, which gave all of us the sense of belonging to a family. The energy and inner harmony he transmitted to all those who were on various tasks in the vast venue was palpable.





Master, despite the pressures on his time, took the trouble of giving two talks and sittings to 1600 prefects from all over the world, teaching them to be good abhyasis first. A revised Code of Conduct was also distributed to them.

Master found the time to drive around the ashram and greet volunteers during the few days prior to the celebration. He found time to meet with groups of abhyasis region wise and give them sittings and to interact with them.

A small group of abhyasis from China attended the Utsav in India for the first time. On 25th, they released a Chinese version of the 'Basics of Sahaj Marg Sadhana'.

Master conducted thirty one weddings on the 23rd, 24th and 25th mornings after satsangh. These marriages performed by Master, cross barriers of culture, religion and caste.

The old meditation hall was the hot seat for meetings of various committees and volunteer teams such as SMRTI, VBSE, SHPT, ZiCs, CiCs, Echoes Newsletter, Website Committee, etc., all taking this opportunity to meet up and chalk out action plans.

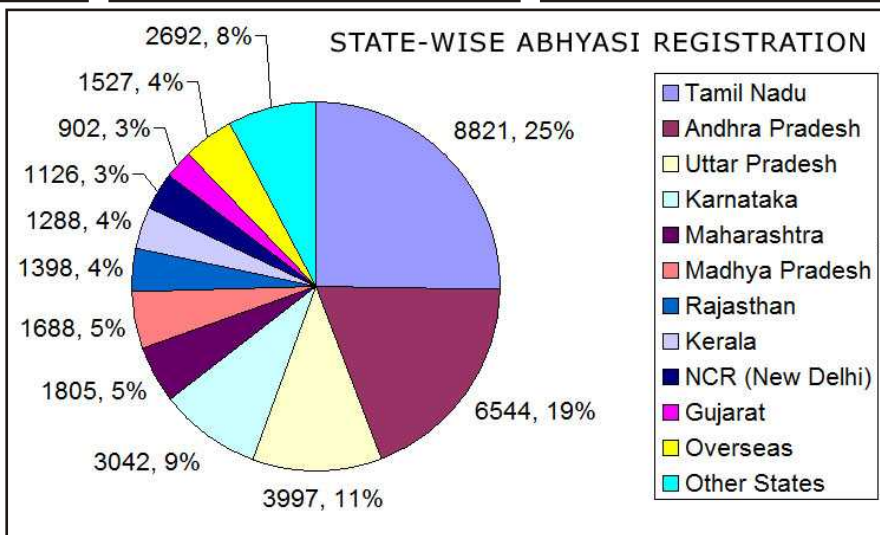


Cultural programmes were held both in the morning and evening which included songs by the Iranian abhyasis, flute recital by Br. Shashank, veena recital by Dr. Jayanthi Kumaresh and bhajans by Sis. Aparna Ghosh, Sis. Ranjana Mehta and Br. Gurpreet.

ID card holders of the Mission from India signed the Membership Register to mark their membership and attendance of the bhandara. It was remarkable to see the older abhyasis waiting patiently for their turn to sign and enthusiastically signing the register.

CREST, Bangalore had a stall to create awareness amongst abhyasis about the sadhana programme being conducted there. Information was provided on the library with an extensive collection of books hand picked by Master.

At the end of the celebration, Master himself observed that the arrangements had been “Excellent” and the event was “Wonderful”.



CREST STALL



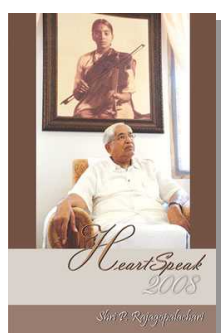


Children's Centre

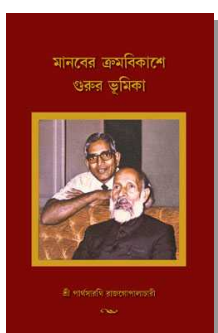
The children's center at Tiruppur was a source of great enjoyment, inspiration, cooperation and love for both the children and the volunteers. Approximately four thousand children from all over India and around the world registered and about 2,000 participated at each session. Teams of abhyasi volunteers from various centers hosted a session each, with other volunteers supporting them. Sessions were conducted in English and Hindi. Some highlights include a group of Mumbai musicians teaching the children 'You're there', a song expressing Master's presence everywhere at all times. The Dubai team hosted a lively Animal Bingo game as well as a group exercise session. Children participated in several small group craft activities including making posters about a particular value such as co-operation, love, peace etc., creating charts on unity and collage work. They all enjoyed making birthday cards for Master as well as a love book. To celebrate Master's birthday on the 24th of July, the children sang Happy Birthday, an 83 kg cake was cut and balloons and gifts were distributed to each child.



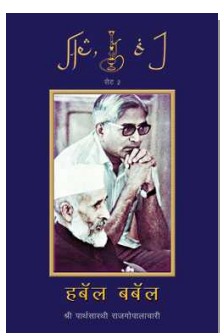
New Publications



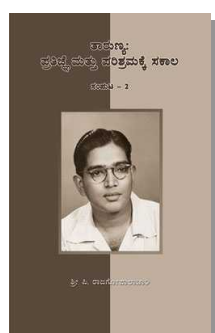
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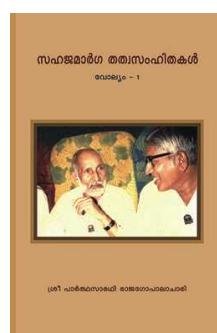
Role of the Master in Human Evolution Bengali



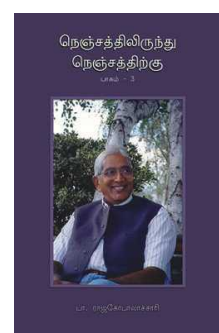
He, the Hookah & I - Hubble Bubble Hindi



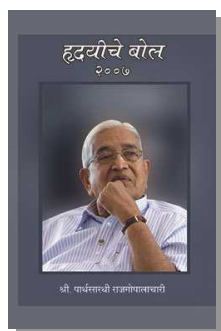
Youth - A Time of Promise and Effort - Part 2 - Kannada



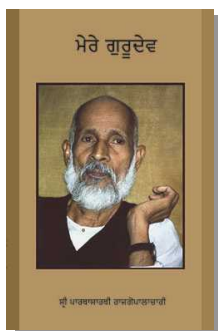
Principles of Sahaj Marg Volume 1 Malayalam



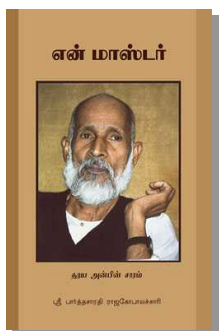
Heart to Heart Volume 3 Tamil



HeartSpeak 2007 Marathi



My Master Punjabi



My Master Tamil



Basics of Sahaj Marg Sadhana Chinese



8 DVD Set Character Formation - Attitude, Guru & the Goal



My experience at the bhandara....



"Each and every abhyasi has acted with discipline, positive and systematic attitude showing that Master has speeded up his work before the bhandara itself."

P. Rajasri, Hyderabad

"Now I have immense responsibility to carry forward what Master gave and to reach up to his expectations."

Janardhan. V, Hyderabad

"The spiritual experience during the bhandara has encouraged us to do our sadhana regularly and deeply. Moreover, the dedication of the volunteers has encouraged us to volunteer for the next bhandara."

Megha & Mahesh Pai, Madikeri, Karnataka

"During the three days of the bhandara, we lived the way our Master wants us to; practicing brotherhood, serving abhyasis, and living a simple life in tune with nature."

P. Subraya Pai, Vittala, Karnataka

"A congregation of 40,000 abhyasis but stillness and calmness everywhere. The sittings by Master cleansing the abhyasis, filling them with Divine Love to make all of us what we ought to be instead of what we are."

S. Balakrishnan, Nagpur

"He has been drawing abhyasis towards Him step by step. It has been a priceless and invaluable bliss poured by Master upon the abhyasis."

Rajagopalachary & abhyasis of Wardha Centre

"As the bhandara was coming to a close, we did not know, whether we were leaving for our homes, or leaving our home."

Nasir Tahasildar, Goa

"Arrangements involved marathon planning and execution. Each abhyasi feels he/she did enormous work but their hearts realize the strength was His. Meditaion hall was like a 'darbar' of majesty and carried the grace and environment."

Anjala & Capt. Vineet Ranawat, Chennai

"I had the opportunity to work as a volunteer in the Meditation Hall. While doing this work I felt that we get a chance to meditate and attend the satsangh conducted by Master with Open Eyes! This teaches us how to dive within ourselves while doing the routine day to day work."

Dr. Gajendra Singh, Gulbarga

"We became abhyasis two months ago. To get three sittings with Master was a much awaited Divine blessing

for us. The arrangements made for abhyasis from all over the world were top class."

Raj Kumar Somani & Sangita Somani, Ranchi, Jharkhand

"I saw my Master for the first time and felt deeply within as if He was my Father. A day before leaving Tiruppur, during meditation, I couldn't control my tears. I was crying throughout the sitting. and was feeling deeply pained that tomorrow I would depart from my Real Home."

Ashwini Patil, Kolhapur

"The atmosphere and Master's sittings made me forget the time and space consciousness. I totally forgot my home and my family members in that Divine atmosphere."

Nalini Inamdar, Miraj

"I didn't realize when the day started and when the night commenced. The way the volunteers worked with love and devotion for Master, with discipline and perseverance, touched me very deeply."

Sharad Patil, Kolhapur

"Suddenly I saw the laughing happy face of my mother who had expired 18 months ago at my home, due to prolonged illness. Now I saw her so happy, contented and so close to Master. Such a touching experience it was as since many years I had not seen her smiling without pain."

Padmanabh Chitnis, Nasik

"While working, volunteers started celebrating Master's birthday at midnight by clapping and wishing Him. At that moment I felt that at all times and everywhere Master would be the only person accompanying me and guiding me."

Shivrudra Kore, Kolhapur

"To attend a bhandara has a special significance for me in terms of a quiet enthusiasm it builds up in my heart, an inexpressible joy it creates within and the preparation of it which starts weeks before in terms of abhyas as in my experience of 5 years."

Poonam Bubber, Vadodara

"I got the chance to work in the medical counter for 6 days. Language was not a barrier for Master's work."

Dr. S. Jagadish, Kollam, Kerala

"Tears come in my eyes when I remember the way He conducted the satsanghs, each more than one hour. What can we do in return for His love? I pray to Him to bless me to make my whole life a voluntary work at His feet."

Dr. N. Sunil, Kasaragod, Kerala



Behind the scenes

The labour and dedication of Tiruppur abhyasis had produced excellent infrastructure for the comfort and convenience of the abhyasis. The accommodation tents, Comfort Dorms, toilets and bathrooms were maintained scrupulously clean. Volunteers working in the kitchen, canteen and dining hall, wore gloves and caps to maintain a high level of hygiene.

The canteen was run both at the main venue as well as the Comfort Dorm providing a variety of refreshments. One could find many relaxing and catching up with friends and family.



COMFORT DORM CANTEEN



DINING AREA

Purified drinking water was made available through an RO system piped to various locations from which abhyasis could directly drink.

The sanitation and housekeeping volunteers in their distinct uniforms did their work professionally. They also attended to breakdown problems proactively. One could detect a new professional touch to the services provided during this celebration.



Transport arrangements were made from Coimbatore airport and Tiruppur railway station. Volunteers were on hand to greet arriving abhyasis and ferry them to the venue. Shuttle buses also ply between the Comfort Dorm and the main venue.



Facilities such as bedding counter, Internet, STD/ISD were provided for the abhyasis. A medical centre facilitated the care for abhyasis with minor ailments as well as emergency treatment. Volunteer doctors took turns to man this facility.

Publications were on sale at a large stall including photographs and audio & video DVDs.

All abhyasis were happy with the dedicated service of the volunteers during the bhandara.



PUBLICATIONS STALL

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