



### The thirst for spiritual life.

#### Questions and Answers

[...]Q: With greetings to my Master, I would like to know if there is any difference regarding the spiritual progress of those who can have constant access to you and be around you, with those who are not able to do so.

PR: I think, as Babuji once said, you know — some people had come to Shahjahanpur from distant parts of India, and even when they were meditating, they were thinking of their home. And

after the satsangh Babuji said, "It is better you are in your home and thinking of me, than sitting here with me and thinking of your home."

The essence of Sahaj Marg is that you, your heart, your mind are all together in one place. We don't bring it. Generally our bodies come, our hearts are somewhere else — somebody in Iran, somebody in, I don't know, USA, somebody with their babies. So until we come as a person — complete, especially the heart — we don't benefit. It doesn't matter where you are.[...]

Q: What is the reason for some abhyasis leaving Sahaj Marg after a while?

PR: Well, you see, when you take a horse to the pond, it drinks until it has enough water. How thirsty are you

when you come? You know in spirituality, it is called the thirst for spiritual life.

How thirsty are you? Some people drink like this [drinking a handful of water] and they are happy. You



know many people come to Sahaj Marg because they have problems at home, they have no jobs, they have problems with the wife, or the wife has problem with the husband. Somebody tells them, you know, "Oh, Sahaj Marg, you know — everything okay," they come. And unfortunately (remember this), unfortunately if that problem is solved, they go home. I am not saying, 'fortunately'. It is unfortunate, because the moment their personal problem is solved... It is like going to a doctor when you are sick.

When you are well, you don't go to the doctor again. So you are reducing spiritual teaching, you are reducing the Morshed [Master] to the level of the doctor (the hakim), whatever you see. And when you are satisfied, you

go. Or, on the opposite side, nothing happens, and you go home. You understand?

So people who are here are people who are really interested in spiritual life, not in improving their material life.

Of course, people will argue: "What about my material life? I need money. I need happiness. I need comfort." Then you must look to the life of the saints. They had no happiness. They had little money or no money. They had no comfort. They lived in the desert. No? So what happens? [...]

Q: Does Master take care of the work and earnings of an abhyasi or not? Is it okay to leave our financial matters to Master?

PR: No! You have to work and you have to earn, and understand that your worldly matters are governed largely by your samskara. Now the people who work the most, really you know, like people who carry wood, who carry bricks or work on the road, they work more than a boss in an office. They earn less, he earns more. Of course, you can say he is an intelligent man. But what is intelligence? If he [the worker] is not working, your intelligence — where is it? So we must understand that what-

#### Thus Speaks

##### Lalaji

•Attaining freedom from miseries is liberation. Liberation is both permanent and temporary. When the liberation is such that the bondage of sorrow is never felt it is permanent liberation. Is bondage also permanent, if we are to speak of liberation as permanent? No, bondages are not permanent, they are temporary.

##### Babuji

•Spirituality is something, while power is something else. It is very easy to gain power, but it is very difficult to acquire the thing needed for spiritual elevation.

##### Chariji

•He alone is spiritual who seeks the Ultimate consciousness or the Godly consciousness in himself, and strives to unite his personal individual consciousness with that Ultimate consciousness. This is spirituality.

ever I have in this world in material terms is because of my samskara.

[...]

Excerpts from – Questions and answers Session with abhyasis from Iran, 19th March 2010,

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**Echoes of the Centres**

**Cameroon: Master's assurance**

*In August, Sister Rachel from Cameroon wrote to Revered Master about a dream she was worried about. She is happy to share the dream as well as Master's answer with her Brothers and Sisters.*

Sister Rachel's dream

Being part of a group, I arrive at a function by bus. Left alone in the night I hurry up to catch our bus at the crossroads on the tarred road. I'm chased by people and I escape by climbing skillfully over the wall of a house under construction. Then I start running on a bumpy trail where cars' headlights blur my vision, and where assailants shout at me. At the crossroads, the road is deserted and across it from me there is an exit to which soldiers point me as the way to home. Having no option, I summoned up my courage and went down that road strewn with barriers and armed bandits and their hunting dogs. [...] I stop on the hill to avoid being beheaded. Butchers around the great roundabout call me. Rather ask somebody to help me. Moving backwards I start another fight here against ghosts emerging from the bush, I'm dazzled by the headlights of the cars which refused to give me a lift and I land at the edge of the tarred road. From me there is a small roundabout where two groups of bandits are standing at 2 "V" shape exits. I run towards the right exit.

Master's assurance  
 Chennai, Monday 30 August 2010 7:13:23 AM  
 Dear sister Rachel, I have read your dream and would like to tell you that dream in which one is attacked personally are very good as indicating the removal of samskaras of the past and the tendencies that they create in the present. I am happy for you. Love to all. I am requesting sister Jeanne to translate this for you.  
 Love to all.  
 With Love and Master's Blessings  
 Affectionately,  
 Parthasarathi

**Yaika (Burkina Faso) - 24th July**

July 24th birthday's celebration of our Mas-

ter was a great day for abhyasis of Burkina Faso. The celebrations took place in Yaïka where we had our morning satsangh at 7:30 in driving rain. After satsangh there was a



reading of a message selected from the July issue of Echoes of Africa which was translated into mooré to all the brothers and sisters. We all felt Master's presence among us; His love strongly felt during the satsangh connected us to our brothers and sisters around the world.

*Patinda Ouedraogo*

**Echoes of Reunion Island - a stay in India**

Master allowed us to take part in a seminar held in Kolkata from July 14th to 21<sup>st</sup>, and which was attended by about 300 abhyasis from Russia, and a small group of 8 from the Reunion Island, just before the Lucknow celebrations. We were bubbling with excitement during the preparation of this trip, with twists and turns, changes of location: Kharagpur then Kolkata where we arrived to join this spiritual adventure. I felt that we were going to experience something exceptional, that it was imperative to remain centered and not get distracted by futile things. I was moved when I went through the gate of the ashram to this place where I was before. What a delight to be in His Physical Presence!

The days were punctuated with satsanghs, sittings, questions and answers sessions, to which He took part, and answered very simply. There were those delightful evenings around Master when He would sit in

the garden, with everyone sitting quietly around him, without rushing, and very considerate for His Being. Although we could not always understand or hear what was said, it was good to be in His Presence, to bathe in his mantel of grace in which He really wrapped us. I had the feeling that all my cells vibrated positively and that their vibratory level rose up. How to express my gratitude for all these unique moments: sharing a meal with him, and even watching movies. A whole movie theater full of abhyasis, the thought came to me that we should all be aware of being a channel at the time. I was really deeply moved by this stay; which revealed in me another perception of Master. He who was a Father to me - father I respected without closeness with him - moved to the state of a Mother with her unconditional Love, who gives, again and again. It is a true blessing! Today, I experience deep in my heart, this guru - disciple relationship He was talking about, namely that the guru is like a mother, and really that is something else. I feel different, and it's up to me now to preserve this



exceptional condition He instilled in me.

Thank you Master

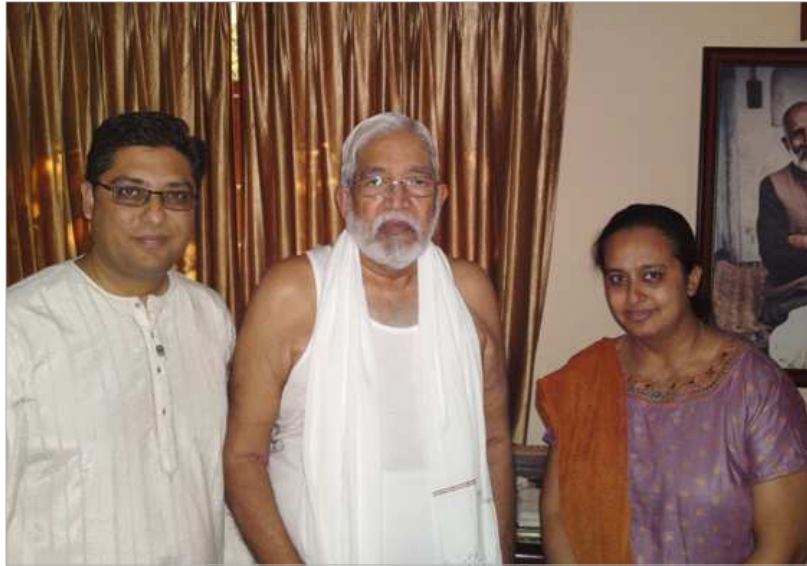
*Leila Vally - Reunion Island*

**Echoes of South Africa : Being at His lotus feet**

Upon receiving news that Rev Master had consented to my initiation as prefect, I felt totally humbled and honoured. Plans to get to India where put in place with much ease. On August 3rd, my wife Rita and I started our bittersweet emotion, sad that we left our children behind, yet enthusiastic of being at His lotus feet.

Returning to this precious ashram after 9 years brought back a flood of emotions and memories as we entered through its welcoming gates on Wednesday August 4th. Sittings for the prefect preparation started that very same day.

Rev Master arrived in Chennai on the evening of August 5th, and the ashram was once again infused with excitement and love. We had the privilege of meeting Master several times on Friday 6th August. We produced Master with a gift, a DVD movie called White Lion, which was filmed in South Africa; we mentioned to Master that we chose this gift as the movie



reminded us of Rev Master’s new look, sporting a white beard, looking dashing and continue to experience the wonder of this incredible path.

On Monday August 9th 2010, Rev Master initiated me as a prefect, with a 15 minute, life changing sitting. The visions and experience during that sitting seemed to change the entire trajectory of my spiritual path, ever so closer to HIM. My heart felt as though it had expanded into a kaleidoscope of light and a burst of love.

We began our journey back to South Africa on Friday August 13th, with a renewed sense of spiritual purpose; eternally grateful to our Beloved Master for

all that He has given us, and thankful to all sisters and brothers with whom we now have a new bond. I look forward to serving as prefect, with the comforting thought that His hand will always hold mine, guiding me in serving Master, Mission and Method. I pray that my hand NEVER lets go of HIS.

Anish Dave - South Africa

**His Way or My Way !**

Brother Kamlesh Patel wishes to share with us his reflections about Master’s inspiring comments below.

“Here and Now at His will, meaning Guru’s will. When you have total obedience, this is his responsibility. When you have no obedience and you follow your own tendencies and you say – thik hai kya jaata hai – it is OK, what is there to loose. So, without obedience, whenever possible at your (Abhyasi’s) will.”

16<sup>th</sup> June 2010, 6:50 AM, Master at Gayathri

Master’s statement is very direct and 100% without any possibility of interpreting it this way or that way. Master has revealed The Magic Formula for success! What we need is “magic” in ourselves to follow – to obey.

Master was elaborating it further by saying that either you leave it to The Great Master or you must develop such an iron will so as to follow the path on your own without deviation. This statement is applicable into every

existential facets of our life. I like to apply this statement in one field of our life, the most important field perhaps and that is our “practice”.

It seems, there are only two major pathways, one that unfolds in front of us because of Him whom we follow by utmost obedience and second one is because of my will and my efforts even though we may be traveling by following the same methodical precepts. We may practice our prescribed method with adopted automatism because we want to grow or we want to evolve or we want to develop spiritually. Yes, it sounds so great, isn’t it? But, there is another scenario to this approach of practice. Some of us practice because The Great Master says it so. What is the difference? One is following out of obedience/ surrender without any idea of gain while another is following with an idea of progress through practice. Though both approaches look similar on the face of it since time and efforts involved are same; only difference is that of “attitude”. Our practice takes a very fundamental or kind of quantum leap when

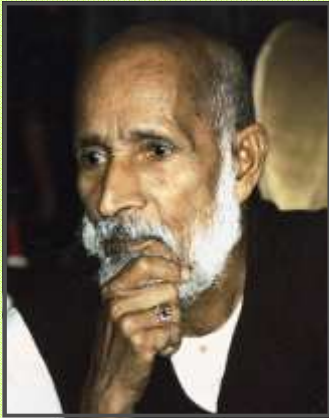
we understand that all that I am doing is because my Master wants me to do it that way. Very moment this attitude sinks in our hearts, idea of progress or evolution or growth ceases to haunt us. Unknown bliss starts descending in our heart almost like the desert that has never seen rain for decades! One feels as if the path itself has become the destination!

Over the years, my practice has taken so many twists and turns. I have witnessed so many of our brothers and sisters blooming under the magical spell of Sahaj Marg. My subject does not allow me to elaborate on those who could not noticeably bloom under Sahaj Marg. Let us introspect our approach to Sadhana. Let us become consciously aware of our inner orientation and adopt attitude that will accelerate our journey; not just accelerate our journey; but make it more meaningful and exhilarating and joyful.

Kamlesh Patel

**Whispers from the Brighter World**

Tuesday, October 31, 2000 – 8:30 a.m.



In all life events, what is important for you, is to keep your self-control and the attitude that corresponds to your deep convictions. To feel connected to your Master, in all your tribulations, protects you from harmful effects. He must remain your lead in all circumstances; you are under his protection. He cannot save you the inherent hitches of all lives. Ordeals are unavoidable, formative, and free you from your chains. They must be accepted in this spirit, without rebellion, since they are steps that hoist you gradually toward the peak.

“We repeat that: all is counted.

“Live in surrender and confidence, happy and conscious of being lucky to leave behind you the darkness of ignorance. Faith is a torch that illuminates your road. May love illuminate your life and protect you from evil, while delighting your soul and making you advance joyfully.”

Babuji

*Whispers from the Brighter World, Vol. 1, page 52.*

**Daily Reflections****Freedom**

Freedom is the biggest enemy of the human being unless you have the wisdom to use your freedom properly for your advantage.

*Heart Speak 2004, vol. 2, p. 121 –Rev. Chariji*

**Questions**

And to ask a useful question, you must know what you must ask - and that's not

very easy. Babuji Maharaj, my Guruji, said, "Answers are easy; questions are difficult."

*Heart Speak 2004, vol. 2, p. 117 –Rev. Chariji*

**Opportunity**

I am sorry to say that we are human beings not endowed with the pre-vision of knowing how long we have to live. I suggest that we should be more careful about this won-

derful opportunity that we call Sahaj Marg - make sure we get into the bus, make sure we stay in it until we reach the end.

*Heart Speak 2004, vol. 2, p. 182 – Rev. Chariji*

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