

12 Dec 1992 Kirtan at Newbury (Atma and Atmananda)

Atma is on his deathbed in the room next door to the kirtan. In Amsterdam Vishnu Shakti is in hospital in an irreversible coma after his fall.

Atma's wife Atmananda is giving the kirtan. Radhani, Vishnu Shakti's wife, is also at this kirtan. Ambikananda asks: 'What is the state of Vishnu Shakti now?' Radhani answers, 'Just the same.'

Devotees are obviously in a very subdued mood.

Tryambaka sings a new song, 'I am Thine, Thou art mine, Ramakrishnaya,' which builds up well with strong bass, drums and singing from devotees.

Swamiji: 'That was good, Tryambaka,'

Ambikananda takes out his harmonium and sings Vivekananda's hymn to Ramakrishna:

'Thou art to be adored, Thou art truth unchanging.

Thou art the lord of the gunas...

Therefore I seek sanctuary in Thee. O friend of the lowly...'

'

. From Swamiji's discourse:

'Great discrimination is needed in Kali age, isn't it? ... God blesses that two-in-one, man and woman, but Kali age wants to break that golden age with iron... You have to be the golden man, golden faith in iron age. You have to be light in darkness, at least for you but not necessarily for others. But we always like to share, to partake of the thing, the condition. ... A dumb man is hungry, he's asking you, talking to you, if you can receive. He who meditates on the real becomes real. 'From the unreal lead us to the real.' ...

'Now we have fallen down to this condition here, we are bruised, isn't it. Falling from heaven to down here, it's quite hard not to be affected. ...A gathering, a satsang is a holy thing, it helps, it dispels darkness, so everyone benefits from one light. But if you really want to benefit you have to approach this light...

'If you have something to do, do it so that when you go you will be able to travel light. Nobody is your own, but the world is also your family. You have to challenge life and challenge yourself. The body pays tax for the occupying soul. If you pray to Mother from the depths of your soul, She will come, or send angels.

'...You have to be healthy. Without health there is no progress, nothing. Mind cannot even be concentrated on God. It's just "Save me, save me." ... That's why if all cannot follow we want to get one who we can affiliate that thread and needle, make sure she has got it, or he has got it.¹ So from that, if the needle goes up, the thread will [follow] wherever it is. One has to be a needle, the others the thread to follow. Jesus trained Peter a lot, Ramakrishna trained Vivekananda. You see how forgetful we become when we speak about it – we drift, we drift....

'Whatever you do with your heart, you shake earth and heaven. Heaven first. Just like you can command the elements. That's why it is said yogis can reach even to the moon, sit and reach. Everything is in the palm of his hand. But you guys, you have at least once to give your life for your near and dear. At least for a day. You have to practise what we say. Because all this is not permanent. Money doesn't bring happiness, does it? ...

'Always think of light, "From darkness to light". And work with love. Your body is a temple. Inside dwells God. Inside the heart is soul, which is immortal self, a little spark of That. So to bring the body to such a low level, to keep it in such misery, you have forgotten yourself. ... The body is a yantra,² it is a maha yantra. The Jewish Star of David³ is greater than Da Vinci.⁴ The triangle, the

¹ Ambikananda is probably referring to Shiva Shakti here. Elsewhere he called her 'the mother of the ashram'.

² Spiritual diagram.

apex, the cross, the bindu. So think well what you are doing. ...‘We have to come to a state of sexlessness.’

Ambikananda now performs a ceremony with Radhani, holding her hand and organizing devotees to form a circle round her, holding candles.

Swamiji:‘...Om Tat Sat. We are not the body, we are not the mind, we are the partner of the Cross.’

He leads devotees in Lord’s Prayer... Then they sing ‘Silent Night, Holy night’, and ‘O come all ye faithful’...

‘If you want to be born into love, your heart is now a lamp. Get inside yourself, dwell within, O mind, don’t let anyone intrude. Keep that secret – pass it on only to your child. God blesses you, Lord Shiva blesses you. That’s why you offer coconut. It’s like the whole world, and it has three eyes...’

‘Happy Birthday to you’ is sung for Sanjana who is apparently not well, and also for Durga Mai, also for Satchi...Ambikananda asks for a red candle for Anne Catherine Emmerich to be burned beside Atma.

Mahayogini sings her version of Lord’s Prayer, then a song to Kali Mai,’

Finally Ambikananda on harmonium sings: ‘If at last my life’s breath should leave me as I repeat the name of Kali...’

*

³ Swamiji may be thinking here of Vishnu Shakti, who was Jewish.

⁴ Swamiji is referring to da Vinci’s drawing of the universal man.