

Nov 13, 1993 Kirtan at Corfton Rd (Madonna)

A devotee who had been 'head monk' of the ashram for nearly ten years until visa problems forced his departure to the United States in 1978, Bal Yogi Sambhu Babaji (to give him his full title) was present at this kirtan, and was warmly welcomed by the devotees. Sambhu was a fine musician. Sitting almost immobile in a corner of the room, he sang and played guitar continuously for almost two hours, choosing bhajans from the early days of the ashram. These included Ambikananda's

'To the land of peace and Shanti Shanti Om',

and

'Ra-Ra-Ra-Ramakrishna, Sa-Sa-Sa-Sarada Devi',

And continued with his own hymn to Ramakrishna:

'I was sitting and pondering the wonders of the universe,

They are nothing without your love...'

He went on to sing many more songs, poems and bhajans.

Later, after Sambhu had left, Ambikananda said:

'Don't ever eat or drink for yourself. When you offer anything it's half bliss. Food becomes blood, blood becomes brain, and all this causes bliss, you understand, if first you offer it to God. Then and there there can be bliss, because you are offering what is dear to you instead of greedily, quickly, eating.

'I change completely when I am not well, you know that? But not suffer - my nature is not to suffer, because my life is very important. If I am not well how am I going to reach, to do my work? Then everything is finished! Then I am just sitting and you are keeping the place going, paying the bills. It is fraud, hypocritical, not true. But we have done quite a bit, and now you must bear in mind we are old, nearly sixty, but we don't celebrate. To live longer than that and to muck about - therefore give it up! But then God says, "What you talking! If you go what will become of this one, what will become of Shakti, of the young ones? If the foundation goes, the house crumbles, and great is the fall and the damage. I don't know how much you depend on us, but you will need us eventually, now, this community, this meeting, this brotherhood. We don't treat you as devotees at all, we treat you as friends, we are all about your spiritual concern, welfare, not just how many meetings would make me up, or you. It's your advancement, your progress. I am checking on it. My interest is to see what you are doing, what you are singing, how much over 25 years, gigantically or microscopically, you have advanced. It's very praising and also very disappointing for me. I don't encourage many meetings. Next one is in May, maybe or June.

'We didn't expect Sambhu and all this, you understand, but it was blissful. Because of Sambhu you are benefiting. And now he has gone you still want all this because of your interest. But we don't want you to be soaked in the same, we have come to bathe you out, to fish you, we are fisher of men, and women, and devotees, and old, and spirits, and dead. Whoever appears in our life has a share in it, especially if he appears of his own accord, which means special love. These are my special love. We intimately know them and deal with them, recognize them, and they will remember us, they will be ever remembered - and they damn need it! They need love, they need that bit of love from us...

'At home two or three minutes is enough for a person, but here we are sharing, in general. Everyone needs to reform themselves in their own way of living, go back home and rectify your daily living to what we have said, how you deal with your daily life. Of course you have to have a bit of your own character and temperament, but every day you have to be the same loving chap, girl, whatever is your relationship. You have to have this love for each other. Jesus said, "Love each other," - he damn said it! Love shouldn't deceive anyone, should be straightforward, truthful... When I tried to induce love here, what a cold shoulder I got! I said, "Let me induce love. Hold hands so that the blood flows, love flows." Love has colour. It does reach people, especially those who need it, they will feel it. It's God's power. I do insist on that: conversion of the heart, conversion of love, you have to feel a conversion: not you but His love in you. Say, "I am divine, I am not this blooming body, I am the body of God. Nothing else will do!"

‘You must keep to what we say or you will be two-faced, your face will be ugly, distorted even. Truth is the austerity of this age. I come to share. Bless you, brethren. You have to be in the grammar of it, the school of thought, the meditation, the thought of the day, of the night, the thought of the blissful moment. And most important, in the thought of the blissful company. The minute you are with us, you are not you. We are in you; and you deny yourself. As long as you stay as you, you are not here. Vivekananda said, you have to surrender. At Himalaya Ashram, Blenheim Crescent, Vivekananda came and said: "I am Swami Vivekananda, I come as a beam of light." ¹ Then the Virgin Mary came - Raghu was there and his wife. Raghu saw a light there. And at the end all I remembered after the long prayer, Virgin Mary said, "Hallelujad! Hallelujad! Hallelujad!" So that came from the Virgin. Virgin is seeing a lot of people now. ² Today Jesus made a request, after one prayer – and it was beautiful when Sambhu sang "*Jesus my life*." They do request, you know...

‘You know what the Virgin Mary said? How when we are singing here, they are singing in heaven and clapping their hands?’ ³ The Virgin Mary told the angel. They also join in, they also sing. It is their name that is concerned, so they hear, and as soon as they are mentioned - that's it. The power of the word is very mystic. What is in you goes out to them...

‘All this will go, but what will not go is what we are doing now. This is your biggest quinine that you will miss there...I am linking, linkage, I am Lincoln, I join your hand, I grab, I put you into garb, I affiliate, I make you tread the path I am treading. Those who have abided have given three-quarter of their lives, and even their children and adopted children will be included. Hinduism has said, he who succeeds, seven generations above and below will be liberated. Who said that? You must correct me, I am not speaking, someone speaks, my mind is blank and dark. So love is you, and you are love. Love is in my hand, invisible. Your human eye cannot see the gem of love hidden.’

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¹ June 21, 1971)

² i.e. apparitions at Medjugorje and elsewhere.

³ This was from *Poem of the Man-God* by Valtorta, read at a kirtan in June 1992.