

Today is not for a talk but for a walk, a walk in eternity... Ramakrishna's birthday is our chance to be born.

Feb 19, 1994 Kirtan at Newbury (Atmananda)

Ramakrishna's Birthday kirtan.

This was known as the 'Cake' kirtan since devotees were instructed to make a cake and bring it as an offering to Sri Ramakrishna at the gathering. They were also told each to buy and fill out a white card, writing on it:

*'I am a true lover of Sri Ramakrishna. I am a devotee of Sri Sarada',
And then sign it with their spiritual names.*

In the course of an informal conversation during a break for tea and snacks, Swamiji told devotees that he had decided to put Ramakrishna Loka on the market, and was looking at another, much smaller place where he could live even more simply.

After mahaprasad he gave a discourse, including:

'I have a lot of things that I have bought for you. All this is done for you. Now take, share; but you have to dedicate. Your mind must be on it. For two weeks, two-three weeks, we are practising, singing. And it takes, two-three *lives* to practise one [Ramakrishna] birthday and merge in the Great Cause - and that's your last birth if you are lucky, if you are so determined. Say, "This life and no other. So what if I have been a sinner, a rogue. I have taken the Name of Kali. What can Yama do?" You are unaware of reality, my friends. Every action has a reaction, and you are getting the reaction of your worldly deeds. The day you change, and put some reality in, and brush aside daily activities, and take an eternal minute into action - that's natural spontaneous word, not made up. Here it's live, there's no borrowing. That's why it's called *Satsang*. That's why you are attracted to hear him talk, but he has practised in his heart for two-three weeks,

'We allow a few falls, God allows it, He didn't judge the woman taken in adultery. You are born in human weakness, maya, you are not born dehypnotized. That's what you are here for. If you were very happy and satisfied with yourself you wouldn't need our advice. Our advice is so annoying, so boring. You think, "Whatever I do is forbidden. It's all forbidden. It's *fattening*, it's *don't*." Duty is God, but when duty is finished, pray to God to give you some peace, don't be a slave. Now we are talking of dual consciousness, two people in one. One is the working Charlie, the second is the one who works for God's sake, not for himself, and doesn't take any credit. Think before you work, give your thought an extension of another thought - "I don't know what to do, how do I start?" Suppose it was God doing that work - what would He do? Let God be in charge of your thought. You are liberated there and then if you think you have never done anything, but God has done it. He seeks His people. Helping you helps others.

'My plan was just to eat Ramakrishna's birthday cake that was all. But at first he didn't want to eat any cake. At last he said, "All right, but I want the cake of their souls. I don't want them at all, I want the residue." The residue is, "*Give me pure love, give me pure Bhakti*," but that should be said very silently, not aloud, because God hears, and worries whether you mean it. What is God after all?

A devotee (Nita): Everything.

Swamiji: Yes, but first, before It becomes everything, God is pure love and bhakti. So, "Give me pure love," the word that refers directly to God. "Give me pure love!" Now, God is pure love, and [He says]. "Who is there, asking for pure love? Who is it who wants to turn the game upside down, make the world go anti-clockwise? Who is mad now?" "Give me pure love!" So God says, "Ask for something else!" "No, I want nothing but pure love." So he tests the genuineness of your madness for God's love. He takes that thought and puts it there, where God is from time immemorial, where the unborn Self is, He puts it in the archive of existence from time immemorial. So that love is put there in a condensed form, and God recognizes that. He says, "That man in the world is a ray." Didn't

Vivekananda come through the ray and say, "I am a beam of light"?¹ These are recognized people. You are so lucky to see the Hindu God incarnate even in minor form, for minor degree of devotees, angels, bhaktas. So these are recognized, not on earth plane, but recognized wherever you are by angels, gods, goddesses.

‘Whenever you start a little work of spiritual life you find Yama, the king of death, comes and acknowledges, and takes your name, like when Nachiketa went to the king of death,² all Yama's people come in earthplane. Musicians will come, singers will come, “matted locks” [*i.e. yogis*] will come when Mother Herself comes, not to speak of the rest. And you will know, because you are a vessel receiving that pure drop of *prema*, love. You will want to mix that drop of love with your comings and goings, and dilute it so that you can share it with all. So when a drop of that thing is converted, you stay as you are, but not the same. Nita Not-this [*Neti*] becomes Nitya, Absolute, dissolved. Once you were here; now you merge in the ocean of Satchidananda.

‘That's the difference between learning and practice of love. Practice of love is immanent, it's here, it's then-and-there. As soon as you put your head in the ocean of love, your eye gets wet and your soul is cleansed. And you become bored even with your good friends, you postpone their visit, “See you again perhaps in a next life,” because the holy thing is so pure, so valid. Practice has to be put into sharing, but while you are developing you can't mess about, like when a woman is carrying her child. There's law, discipline, control. But you're so lucky to be the object of this on earthplane. Even the onlookers, the peepers, everyone, has been taken by the camera. Whoever has made a step here is benefiting in the light. But in that life there is only one day - tomorrow never comes.

‘Always before meditation, I told you, join in an ecstatic mood, think something beautiful, something *satsangi*, think of the sound that helps you to relax your mind. Brush aside the negative thoughts, be in unison like a tuned instrument and its player. You are the playing of your instrument of meditation and God is the listener. Now you are playing your meditation to God alone. The flight is alone to alone, and God is listening to what you are offering.

‘You are here to develop, to snap the fetters of your home. This is God's place, God's devotees for tonight, God's birth, blissful company. In this age you are going in bliss without meditation, just by talk among devotees. Out of the womb of darkness light is bombing, and pinpoint warning for every individual here. There will also be departure a bit,³ but if you are here you are here, take good care of it, make hay while the sun shines. Ramakrishna loves you. All this he does for you. He cries when you want experience, he says, “It's all yours, but we are here for you.” So if you haven't seen God, see His devotee. God with His love brought his devotees down, so says GSR. God rewards those who are with God from early on until the end, them. God rewards everyone who has helped him on earthplane. You have helped, and he is eternally grateful.

‘What this meeting means is identification with Ramakrishna: realization, enlightenment, prasad, mahaprasad, Kali prasad, Ram Prasad, Ram Jams, Naradas. All are here remembered. They may be having a great time, or they may be in prison, I don't know.⁴ But we are prisoners of love, we have made ourself a free prisoner of love. You defeat nature if you can get over temptation, and you have the power of purity to heal, here. God abides by your will and wish. Summer will come. You will be without these colds and frosts, you will be so happy, you will have eagerness, you will want to be the person that Ramakrishna, and you, want you to be. It's within. God is inside, witnessing. He is everywhere, no doubt, but by his maya you forget every day that He is first witnessing your activity. So in a word you have to go back and merge, then you join your little flame to That. If you make one step of self-effort, then He will come and take ten steps towards you.

¹ At Radhani's place, Himalaya Ashram, June 21 1971.

² See Katha Upanishad.

³ i.e. deaths among devotees.

⁴ Ambikananda may have heard that in Goa Raja Ram had been arrested and locked up for 24 hours.

‘So push the veil of maya aside, brush it aside now. We are joining in practice. Our life is to be practical here. It is for you to become what you have come here for. How beautiful it was earlier to see all of us here; how more beautiful it is on Buva plane, or Swaha, or Maha, or Jana, or Satya, where there is a place of no return. From there you will see some falling down, due to attachment, some who can’t give up, like a monkey putting its hand in a pot, can’t take it out. They will fall down, will say “Sorry, I will try hard again.” Only an advanced soul can meditate above. [and] he [Swamiji] is doing it all here, voluntarily, brushing aside vagaries. If I lose this one, [I say,] I lose my life. Thy Kingdom come. So stop being “you”. Today is reformation. Today is not for a talk but for a walk, a walk in eternity... Ramakrishna’s birthday is our chance to be born.

‘If for once you could put your head through the veil of maya, this game of maya, if for once you could say no and resist! But you guys, you don’t think of tomorrow, yet you are falling today! Tomorrow the sun will shine, and you guys will come here again. You will face Me, you will want to be what I am talking about. It’s not only those on TV or film who are actors, everyone is an actor, everyone is acting. But are you acting your life and your soul? You have to be a bit voluntary, a bit doing, if you want to abide by the way of quick-advance departure. I know your life is secured by Ramakrishna, but some are not satisfied with that. Ramakrishna came to teach us; he was not satisfied, he came to prove that God can be realized in this life, [he told us] to go in solitude now and then, *satsang*, and choose your company. Spiritual life goes hand-in-hand, husband and wife together. So says Mother.

‘The more you have all this world heavily on you, the more you may have to come back, unless you are detached from your work. Lord Krishna said, “Thy right is to work, but don’t desire the fruit of action.”⁵ So dedicate everything, work for God. There is no yoga if your senses are not MOT’d,⁶ checked for lusty, dusty, and so on. You should get on with it before you get further tangled down here. When you are there, you can’t pray. You get the fruit of your meritorious deeds, but you can’t pray there. Prayer is for earthplane. If you can’t “belch what you’re eating”⁷ here, do you think you will belch it there? And it’s full of distraction there. It’s a big place, and if you’re not terrifically good you will be sorry, especially when others are going higher and higher, while you are subject to falling down here.

‘Everyone looks forward to Easter, but who is looking forward to the 40 days of fasting, and doing a lot of these different prayers? People come to celebrate, not to be with Him in His agony, to be angels. Man is born to replace the fallen angels, so be an angel, let your body be a temple, now, and let in that God who dwells within, and who talks silently in mutual witnessing silence and observance, continuously and unknown to you. He is so powerful that you forget He is inside you. Only when He wants you to know will you know. Jesus blessed them when they said, ‘Thou art verily the Son of Man’, he was so pleased.

‘We are like a spade in the garden of this world. You are plants, and you have to transplant into the hole of the holy foot and grow like these flowers here. Your thought will give fragrance, your eyes will close to the world... Don’t judge the living or the dead. Mind your own business and be quiet. Hold your own breath in your heart: Amen, Amen, Amen.’

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⁵ Bhagavad Gita.

⁶ i.e. submitted to a roadworthiness inspection.

⁷ GSR

