

‘When love approaches you create a line, a measuring, an art, but that line will be effaced by love.’

Apr 15, 1995 Kirtan at Leicester (Nita and Sada Siva)

Nita and Sada Siva had moved from rented accommodation outside Leicester to a substantial house in the city, where there was plenty of space for a kirtan. Sada Siva was a gifted musician, and his contribution at kirtans as the drummer – bongos or tabla – had been important. In fact, the combination of Sada Siva’s drums and Nita’s bass had long been a mainstay of the ashram music. Now they had offered their house as the venue for an April kirtan.

After bhajan from the regular musicians Swamiji asked for a contribution from Sati, who was not often seen at kirtans these days, and was not well. She was already being affected by a cancer that would end her life only twelve months later. But now she sang a lovely song from Blake’s ‘Songs of Innocence’. Ambikananda praised her performance highly, and asked her to sing the song again.

From Ambikananda’s discourse:

‘Warning is a higher step towards perfection, it’s “Be ye perfect as your Father is in heaven.” Warning is to leave your state and go to a higher sphere. But love has no law, there is no in-between for love, it is you who create a line. When love approaches you create a line, a measuring, an art, but that line will be effaced by love; all the trace of your canvas, the little pencil line will be covered – the higher love is the tangible gross form of the painter in the brush of your canvas, presently how you are. You have to come to the point of ripened love for love’s sake, and love ripened is prema bhakti. If you have no love you have to pray for love. It’s not an easy matter, some have no love at all, cold, no feeling, there’s no humane in them. You have to have feeling. If you are able, then your feeling is universal. Otherwise your feeling of love is responsible for your household first. Then you go outside, neighbours, abroad. It’s a super thing for later on, a binding force for eternal union.

‘This is a great union, a great sacrament actually. Never mind the past, we love you, and you are back and back to normal and restarting afresh, a new seed. Suppose your past life was rubbish, now you are reborn, you are reborn in love. Love incomprehensible, so don’t be stagnant in the old ways of your life. You are reborn, you are made welcome, a new house, a new place, Easter – raise with the Lord! Praise ye the Lord! Ganga Mai, purify, all past sin washed. We send healing power for all those who are not well, hundreds of things you don’t know. Maybe you guess. A new leaf of bliss is given, half a bliss half a leaf, may they benefit, a new life, a new leaf, blissful. This is blissful consciousness plane. Without light this love is very difficult to understand. A blind man walking, what can he see? He has to go by psychic, auric feeling, some blind can see – “This is this colour, this is that colour” – they are gifted. Some can play, some can sing – that Sati can sing very well. Unfortunately she is sick. If I was someone else I would take film of her at Easter, a souvenir with Swami for golden age, ending of Kali age.

‘If you have inner sight you see God in everyone. So Mahapurushji said, “When I see a person, first I see his deity, and I salute the deity- when the deity disappears then I talk to the person.” You are born to be real, but here you are tangled in the cobweb – you have to have super determination, super power and all this. You have to be what we are saying in firm decision as you wake up; and in the middle of your work you bow, discriminate, make work become worship privately, not to show anyone.

‘Now we are 60, we need pension soon! But you are young, you have to go through all these squares. So be loving, be reunited, forget the past, don’t judge the living or the dead. Get on with it. Life is a challenge, face the challenge. We are putting more holes in the flute that is you so that you can play various melodies.¹ If you surrender to the Lord, the Lord will make more holes in that big bamboo,

¹ In GSR Sri Ramakrishna contrasts jnana (knowledge) and its single note - God is the only reality - with bhakti (devotion) wherein many different forms of God can be worshipped or played like different notes on a flute.

more beautiful sound. You are that kind of people, don't worry about the dark side – always there will be a dark cloud but you will live in the summer showers, you are not afraid of these things, you are divine colours, divine birth. Vedanta says you are divine by birth.

'Body will change, but spirituality will not die, spirituality is immortal, as God is immortal. "*From the unreal lead us to the real, from darkness to light, from mortality to immortality.*" And who said, "*Thou art That, Sannyasi bold*"? It was Vivekananda, a *saptarishi* in celestial sphere, one of the seven sages. And Vivekananda came for the last meeting for Ramakrishna's birthday, because all that worship was his principle – tray, sandalwood, flowers - I read it once and I followed him. He came to acknowledge receipt, and in early morning spoke in broken English, very affable, serious but smiling, with a chuckle.

'For love of God we are meeting. If it was not for God we are invalid, no validity in this meeting. Our spiritual state is in heavenly garment, with the spoon of love and sound of music, natural bliss. A little bit of company of holy man, of enlightened soul, is like a little bit of sun in the winter of your life, a bit of warmth, of hope against the condition of the world. There are so many people sick, so we gather in a convalescent room, and when it fills with Paramahansa [Ramakrishna] then everything changes, even the room becomes electrified. That's the power of the true guru.

'When you say, "Thou art mine, I am Thine" that's when your body dies, you never wake up – "*Bhavanita Thou.*"² Words are very mantric, powerful, especially if given by one who is endowed with this divine thing. Now you can see further. But life is mixed with sickness, disease, karma, work – you have to fence with five swords in this world! Householder's life, how hard it is. It's eight o'clock, so we thank the landlord, the landlady for this wonderful little convalescence gathering. Some of you are gifted, like Sati – she doesn't know – so many of you have so much gift from God, natural, without technique, you have your own development, your own quality, which comes from God. The flesh is against the spirit, but the spirit is hidden, predominates the flesh, which takes great advantage of the spirit to grab the weaklings and bind them. That's where the trap is... The right feeling is God, something that tells you.'

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² From Shiva Shakti's song.