

May 13, 1997 Lunch at Glen Lodge

Present were Mahalakshmi, Satchitananda, Jai Narain

Swmiji's discourse:

'The holy man stays as a child; but he's not so childish, he is wise. We can declare [ourselves] but the rest is up to you. God doesn't harrass or interfere. But if you fall you will learn. If you are delayed you will have to be reborn. Everything is in your daily life. Today, tonight, your dealings, your words - as long as your words are truthful.

'There are a lot of regrets - they¹ don't want me to go; and that's why I didn't go. Twelve times I would have gone, twelve or fifteen times. An ordinary being doesn't come back, but the child had to be received.² When the mind just leaves you, you go. Sarada Devi said, "When I looked at my body I didn't want to come back."³ And she is Lakshmi herself, and also Kali. Tryambaka and everyone would celebrate my departure very well with bhajan, but it would be a different thing, and there is so much sadness. Atma was going, but he found Atmananda didn't want it. He said, "Don't hold me any more, let me go." And when karma is exhausted you pack up. This body causes so many problems, defects, complexes, so much of "I wish I could change this, change that, my face, my hair" - so fickle. Next time you will have changed in face, in hair - everything will have changed, and for the better! 'So I have no regrets. That's why we bought this place,⁴ in case of an attack. And an attack did come, but fortunately we didn't go. All was made ready from the last kirtan because I didn't unpack.

'Three times [at the kirtan] I went to bless Nita and Sada Siva's wedding.⁵ Marriage means union - two in one. Nita is very good - "The cook is Brahman." It's up to me to give people their grade, to unite or to disunite. And once the light is lit you can use it how you like - to read the Bible or to write a cheque. It's up to them now to prepare and do it, and so on. Madonna did a lot of dance and worship; she remembered, she had faith. And Parvati came from the seventh plane of Govinda.⁶

'But [spiritual life] is not for everyone. The real wealth is if you can do all this from an early age, and by yourself. Especially by yourself. For householders it's not easy. In the ashram they have been given quite a bit. If they miss the boat they can get the train. If they miss the train they can get the steamer, and Sri Ramakrishna is the steamer of safety itself. He is very kind, that man, so says his devotee, and the steamer himself has said so too, privately. I think you were there, and I sent a cheque of £1,000,000 to guarantee your insurance after death. It's not a joke.⁷

'Money will never change us. If you get, you distribute. But a lot of people aren't like that. They are like the frog [in the story; they] raise their leg [to kick the elephant] and say, "How dare!" The GSR is so right. You become attached, you become a miser, it doesn't help. Sri Ramakrishna says, "God gives, but it's not for you, it's for others." Everyone needs a bit of help, so it isn't good to develop a stone heart, especially for devotees. Devotees who become too money-minded gain pride and lose their personality, their divinity, it's like a ball going down. It's very difficult, they are centred in their own being; so you can't waste energy. But in this one minute there are the four seasons, the whole year. From today, every day is like that. Do you think of it like that? that's the procedure: you get the seed, artfully you get the psychic imagination of the colour, but the reality of the experience ... As Sri Ramakrishna says, as long as you are meditating you are still moving in the realm of maya. He is right.

¹ The devotees.

² Jemma (Jai Ma) The child of devotees Hari Om and Babaji, born April 1997.

³ Sarada Devi saw herself when out of the body.

⁴ Glen Lodge.

⁵ Nita and SadaSiva had hosted this kirtan, the previous day.

⁶ Parvati, a great devotee who passed away in January 1971.

⁷ To Jai Narain.

‘This is unexpected grace, when you didn't expect anything from God and He forces it, He catches you like a prisoner, He marries you. God is male, female - He wants to marry you, He says, "You belong to Me, you are Mine, I am you." And that's the end of it, two in one, a love affair between God and the devotee. Then you merge in the Great Absolute, and that's you lost, unless you have a special mission, when He says, "Not yet, not yet, come down for a bit."

‘Yoga is union. Yoga is to unite, to join. So when He marries, it doesn't mean rite and ritual, it means yoke, to yoke and unite you with Him. And He transfers His seed like you transfer your seed when you have a child or something. God transfers the seed of His unknown existence and awareness to the devotees. Therefore the devotees grow hiddenly in darkness like a mushroom. "*In dense darkness, O Mother, Thy formless beauty sparkles.*"⁸ It's bitter to understand the word, to swallow it, but it's beautiful to hear the colours He's saying; everything is beautiful about God, He is *Sundaram*.⁹ But if you are blind you can't see anything. Therefore faith in one way is blind. Close your eyes and see. Sit still and travel. All these yogic qualities are better than anatomy study. Anatomy helps beginners and helps people in the world to be detached, but what do they do next? They have to eat, to drink, to have pleasure - what's the point of living otherwise, for them? But they get bored with themselves, so there is the other side. So you must not let anything govern you. You have to try to govern a lot of things.

‘Leave *gu*, let *ru* govern your life.¹⁰ This is the surrender state. If you do what I say you get divine power. Divine power is in your daily life, how you live, your every single thought. God helps those who help themselves, who force themselves to be obliging. The man you didn't want is the right man to do all this. He is willing and happy to do it, it is his pleasure to do something, to comply. So he gives a helping hand. Some things can't wait, but some things *can* wait. Everything doesn't have to be spick and span. Spick and span is for your internal life. You can have ten showers a day but still your mind is stained, your soul is stained. How will you get that out? But bliss is beyond all this, in one way, when you say, "Take Thy purity, take Thy impurity."¹¹ And the child said, "I am not affected."¹²

‘I felt bad I didn't do enough for the child, but she smiled. They recognize, she has declared, they pretend to be a child but they still remember everything, recognize your voice: "I heard that when I was unborn." Let others take care they don't fall, they don't drift too much. In the community you are like a dog with a collar, you can go to a certain limit. But we are not dogmatic or fanatic, we are private, we don't go for huge amounts of followers, we are picky-choosy, most difficult, awkward in one way. You have to be sattvic, dedicated, not expecting anything. So many have been on-off, like switches. As soon as they get something in the wallet they become heavy and then they become lost. God has given a little bit of free will. That's the trick, the game. God sports, He doesn't force you, but He shows you: "I am blossoming in this, see the colour, see the beauty in this flower, it's greater than Solomon in all his glory -" didn't Jesus say that? So a man's life speaks for itself.

‘Spirituality is the purpose of life; if only you can discriminate, if only you can cut through the jungle of this world with the sword of discrimination, dispassion, detachment, not too much ego and pride. GSR explains everything, but it's not fully understood - people say, "Oh, it's beautiful!", or take it as a support. But the reading doesn't mean the Person. And the Person again is two things. He is an individual ray that blossoms its own transplanted seed of knowledge, experience, reality in any season if He so wishes, it all depends on the space of light that is allowed to Him. If it's not allowed the mushroom stays in the dark and you don't get anything. But a lot of things grow in darkness - faith grows in the darkness of the mountain cave, no big show of churches, and trumpets blaring. But you must be on a good ground, a good footing.

⁸ GSR song.

⁹ Beauty.

¹⁰ *Gu* means darkness, *ru* means light. See *Gurugita*.

¹¹ Sri Ramakrishna's prayer to Mother: "Here is Thy impurity, here is Thy purity, take them both and give me pure love."

¹² Jai Ma, Hari Om and Babaji's newborn child, welcomed by Ambikananda at the previous kirtan.

‘People feel according to how they are treated. Animals like love, they don't need food all the time, just a bit of a caress, a bit of hullo, a bit of reassurance that they are still known about. You may talk about love but if you create indifference it's another sort of maya - a big circumference before you reach the destination. You can go straight or you can go round the world five times - it's up to you on your sputnik. Or if you are a yogi you just sit and *go* - and back again, bouncing, or don't come back ever, or take others. Jesus said, "I am going to make a place for you in my Father's house. If it was not so I would not have told you."

‘But there must be the interest, and there must be the living of it. Life is a big garden; every individual has a portion of that world, one metre, 10 metres, however much he can manage. But the more his greed makes him want, the more bitter the result. All his life he has to cultivate it. But some work with love, the flowers grow of their own accord. So when interest drops it's good to help others, make them up a bit, go and do it for them, give a lesson at least. But you don't have to teach unless it's natural for you. Be dharmic, be truthful. You don't have to knock people, just say it once. Everything will be exposed in the end. If you have affair with the cobra, three croaks and that's it.¹³ Like when M first met Sri Ramakrishna. "Oh, he is married! Oh, he even has *two* children! You say your wife is illiterate - so you are intelligent?" That was a heavy blow for a headmaster. After that he was at the feet of the Master. Otherwise you are in agony.

‘You live in hope: big talk, big lecturer, quite dry, nice for those who can't live without intellect, books, debate. It's psychological, there are layers of psychology. One who is worn out exposes himself, and another is still hidden. It is difficult to know the age of a yogi; some are 1000 years old, but others - Ramakrishna was 51, Vivekananda was 40, Jesus Christ 32. They come, they give the seed - there's no point for them to stay. They will be ill-treated, they have to bear and suffer, they live for the benefit of the world. A mystical life is not understood by the ordinary intellect. Nowadays there are drugs. After learning from Indian gurus, after a few pills and chillums, they know everything and tell you, levitate, harmony and peace. They bounce.¹⁴

‘If your mind goes out, everything drops. Once sugar candy is tasted, all [interest in] treacle tart is finished. A man like that could not advertise himself or speak about himself. A crowd would come round him straight away. Whenever there is a big thing, people of the world want to be there first, just like they have invented it. They want all the honours. Well, writers can catch something spiritual out of the blue, and for people of the world, for bookworms, all this means a lot. They will not practise, but they want to find out where it was written, who has written it, etc.

‘Sri Ramakrishna knew who Vivekananda was, who Rakhal was before they came. He had a vision of little Rakhal dancing, and he brought Vivekananda down.¹⁵ But he still had to test them. He said the day they know themselves my mission will be finished, they will just give up their bodies. So it's a game, and many children in our ashram are very good. They form a circle of pupil, guru and teacher. Now there is someone born for them. They will grow up, and this one is the spirit - soon it will have such a discrimination. One leaps, while others have to run, sprint, and race round and round. While this one - one leap, two leaps, three leaps, and no more to cover.¹⁶ We are going, and someone has to be in the asram for the others. After he had gone Sarada Devi wanted to pack up, and Sri Ramakrishna had to appear and say, "Stay, I am only in the next room."

‘Translate colours into words, words into writing, writing into remembrance, and pass it on. It's called *Sundaram*, beauty. *Siva*, *Sathya*, *Sundaram*. If you don't see these three the sea is rough and dirty, though sometimes calm and pleasant, windy even in the Fens. So God is abiding so much in our thought with Jesus. You should think of others' convenience, and what you do for others you do for

¹³ GSR: the watersnake cannot swallow the frog, but the cobra swallows it before it can give three croaks.

¹⁴ i.e. they travel between realms and worlds.

¹⁵ See GSR.

¹⁶ Vamana, the Dwarf incarnation of Vishnu, covered the three worlds in three strides.

yourself. A lot of people want it all for themselves, but if you don't think of your due, others come and offer by force. You think, "That's strange, someone I didn't know offers to help, he smiles, he helps." So many strange things happen by divine power. You have heard of will power but you don't know how divine power works.

‘Divine power is your daily life, your daily breathing, your daily work in your own room, your own bed. There's an energy that comes, you can't explain it. Something comes to a person, he can be a bad character even, but something comes into him, he can't help it, he is possessed. The spirit comes and pushes everything aside. It's like when a strong wind comes, so you don't have to sweep with a broom - the wind blows away all the leaves. You can't explain the divine power. It acts naturally, why shouldn't it? Nature interferes with sub-nature. The sub-commanders of nature say, "We recognize him. He is a blue man [*Krishna*?]." Others take photographs. Plants recognize, flowers have psychic eyes. Slowly what was hidden is revealed, they give out in fragrance and change their colour.

‘This is psychic metaphysics. they know it, but use it for completely different reasons, not for spiritual. It's for those who look for visions, who want to know the future, who haven't attained to the real love of God, GSR says. Nature yields. Nothing can happen without the will of God. He can create seven rainbows and only you can see it, no one else. You are not interested, but it's for others to puzzle over, to research, it's for scientists, so many lenses zooming. But this is not an attraction for the man,¹⁷ and has never been from birth. From birth He has helped them, they form a class of their own. Everyone does his dharma, but among the rest it is a thing unusual and rare, not wanted by anyone, but now because of drugs everyone is a bit enlightened, a bit ecstatic through drugs. how was it before? You have to take drugs, but still you are the same person. If He makes a change in you, you don't need drugs, it's natural spontaneous love. All things drop in to you - knowledge, psychic, vision, natural. In the beginning you are a child, you have a lot of fantasies, you go for this and that. Children are children, fantasies are fantasies, but when you grow up you say *neti, neti*,¹⁸ you look for something more important. You say, I was attracted by jewels and pearls, but now that I have seen something more valuable I will sell all. So says the Bible. These are stages in yourself.

‘There must be no disunion, no separation. Union. union, union. Love your family. If you can't attain, just love your family, be dutiful and look after your family. That's what God has prescribed for householders, because they have little time to give - they're already in a fix for themselves, plus how to think of God as well? - how can you detach from all this? You may be sitting in meditation but your mind will be on the world. It's like hypocrisy; so Sri Ramakrishna says, "Before you sit, put all the things you have at the feet of Mother, wash them with Ganga Mai, put a 'No Admission' sign up, and meditate."

‘ But some people cannot be so detached. In fact it is God who will show you so many things to distract, and also to reveal to you. Before you meditate think of all the activities of the day. Keep what is useful or good; what is useless throw away. So it is said in the *Life of the Holy Mother*. And meditate from the heart to the head, and then bring it down. But without practice, without truthfulness to yourself, all is just a flimsy thing on the eye; so go and find out where so-and-so is hidden. But there is beauty everywhere. There's so much in the little plants if you analyze them, a whole world. In a drop of water there is the whole ocean. But until bliss is experienced it's very difficult to get the essence of reality. The essence of reality transcends even the beauty we are talking about. Beauty is just a beggar.

‘That's a different state again, when beauty becomes different. You are knocked out. Beauty becomes your life, you are reborn just to dab art from the real to the unreal, to expose that. But to reject that there is a divinity in human flesh, unrecognizable, like Sri Ramakrishna, Sarada Devi, Jesus Christ? "Are you the son of God?" That is the question, nonstop. "Are you Rama? If you are God why isn't there just happiness...?" They forget karma, action and reaction, the law of cause and effect.

¹⁷ i.e. himself. Ambikananda.

¹⁸ ‘Not this, not this’.

‘I am not frightened of justice: justice to my family, to my own self. But for others, I don't interfere, it's up to them, I just say the word, I don't harrass. I live and let live. It's up to them. If you are a devotee you are a devotee. Spiritual life is not monotonous, it is full of colours and joy. Sickness is a sign that He is coming now: one sign, two signs, a third sign - that's it. So he is not clinging to life. If life was so dear he would just.... He could heal a lot of other people so he could heal himself. Jesus didn't do anything for himself, Sri Ramakrishna bore the cancer, Jesus bore the thorns. Otherwise *you* would have to suffer it. You have to understand these things, understand the game.

‘Today children cannot understand their parents. They are two different generations, two different flowers. It's different, things change. so blest indeed are those who are on a firm footing. Now the teacher has to go for an exam. But I am not concerned with those, I am concerned with detachment. the world is not my worry. Just temporarily I am here. I know what the pitfall is, the danger, the glitter, the sham of the world. I don't yearn for that world.

‘The Jews of old were the real Brahmins, they were perfect, according to your faith.¹⁹ You happen to be Jewish but you are called Mahalakshmi. God is in your name. the name and the named are not different. You love the Man, who cares? God has no nationality. One minute He is born Rama, then Krishna, then Christ, next is Ramakrishna. So take refuge, do one-sixteenth. Why cause headache? Say, "I don't know anything, I meditate on Mother." What more? Can you know everything? At the end nothing exists. The colour becomes the word, the word becomes the writing, the writing becomes the remembrance, and you pass it on. It's called *Sundaram*, beauty.’

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¹⁹ Ambikananda is speaking to Mahalakshmi.