

Oct 6, 1997 Lunch at Glen Lodge

Back at Glen Lodge, and drawing on his very last reserves, Ambikananda somehow cooked and prepared a meal for devotees including Kamala, Madonna, Gayatri, Satchitananda, Mahalakshmi, Sada Siva and Jai Narain. This may have been the last occasion on which Swamiji addressed the devotees. He passed away one month later. During the meal he said:

‘Those who are in charge must have consideration of environment and laws, must respect other people’s wishes. If there are too many captains the ship can sink. Well, it may go aground anyway, by itself, but I am not here to save the ship, I am here to save the people, that’s my job. This is all finished now, all broken, it is scrap.

‘For me there is enough work that I left from last time for 12 years, or 12 births. I can’t just come with chocolates and forget the principal purpose of coming. It’s about their development, the natural birth, the ripened fruit. But “ripened” and “mid-ripened” are two different things - see the GSR. Well, I know what pain is. There are [people in the ashram] who are not in such a pain because of certain conditions, but because they are not getting the realizations (but some do get), and they say, “We have done all this and we can’t realize, so let’s have our smoke, or let’s have our private little thing.” I don’t interfere, or only when there is need. It’s not forbidden.

‘You like what you are eating, Jai Narain? Do you like fish? And you, Satchitananda? The veg is beautiful. It’s especially cooked for Kamala: hard outside, like myself, but inside my blood is so tender. Do you have some drink? Cold water? There is fruit juice if you want.

‘So when I withdraw it will be just like an ordinary being, I am not so important any more. Now they think I am Swami, they look after me, worry about me. But if someone is not a swami who cares how often he goes to hospital? And if you are spiritually minded the doctors working in the hospital try to avoid you. Dr Mohammed was happy to be announced and say, “How are you today?” So I said, “Not too bad.” Then I asked him, “Dr Mohammed, do you pray to God?”, and he goes all the time, “Yeah, yeah,” he says, “Yeah, yeah.” Then he asks my name and I say, “I am Swami, a Hindu monk.” And he goes, “Mmm.” Next time it was like I never existed, he didn’t know me at all, just sat there reading his paper. Well, declaration of truth hurts.

‘I made myself become a swami.¹ I have been in an ashram and all this, but I am an ordinary person, not attached, not affected. We don’t work on curiosity; that creates more trouble; it’s for you to investigate, isn’t it? You are lucky to know from his mouth what is also recorded, I suppose. Name and fame – it’s just a bigger fight, it only elongates. You are not here to gossip or criticize. But truth is truth, I am telling you, for future returns. Everyone wants to come back and have a nice time, everyone wants to come again, but that would destroy my past birth in you, destroy my past saying in you, destroy me in you after I left. There is no comparison, however beautiful it is now, however beautiful the chocolate is. We don’t go just for cake and all this. You have to listen, to digest. People hear something, or think that’s what they have heard, many times it happens, but what if you don’t react, don’t finish listening?

‘So we get heavy warning, until breath takes action to stop completely, to stop when the Person is not here, and as soon as the Person comes you go on one to sixty, plus another sixty, and that’s it, the room changes, the vibe changes, the whole thing becomes the Person. The wall, wherever you look, the shrine, becomes the Person. Because we are here to change, to reform, that’s what the swami is here for. He has given the devotees new names to remind them of the new man, the old one gone.

¹ Ambikananda was initiated by Swami Maitreyananda in 1971.

'I drink just drink water, and now I go in bliss, it sends me in bliss. Truth can cause bliss; you can't explain spirituality. Jesus converted water into wine; and he is the pain in my leg also! It's a mystical confusion, not easy to know: one minute the leg goes up to the ceiling without support, the next minute you can't even lift me. I kept telling Madonna, when she was at the hospital, "Now the child is born, what does it matter if I live or not?" That is Babaji's child, Hari Om's child. For me it is a great spirit; I have seen the birth now, I am happy, I die, finish. But first it was revealed, so and so, so and so, I held it before birth, I danced in ecstasy, I sang. Some were missing when we were initiating, I had to play the part of father, what else can you do? The spirit has to enter, the spirit enters like that, just by the word. But I don't want to declare the power. If it comes, it comes of its own accord. A lot of things are converting of their own accord.

'If it is bliss you think I am after, why am I in a state where even that water is blissful? The Person says, "Give up, my friend, give up that which harms. This is the blissful state. Drink the nectar of it." That's why you squeeze to get the juice, and leave the rind and pips outside. It's so important now to ask the real purpose of being. So be quiet, be ordinary. Krishna was happy to be a servant, a charioteer. If you do something yourself you are more satisfied than if you pay someone else. That's the result of the work. If you take advantage you violate.

'Are you thinking of God? Are you? Just to remind you, a memorandum! If you look inside, instead of at pictures and art - well, art is beautiful, but He who dwells in the heart is much more beautiful. Become the picture of my heart. People have heard this before, over and over. Play the same record, they say. It is supposed to be said 150 thousand times a day, for liberation.

'They [devotees] have had their times as grownups, some from childhood, they can say that half of their lives has been spent in a semi ashram, a sort of ashram, privately. All the teaching, all the music, and especially all that has been done by others, all is selected specially for them again. It is re-explained just for them. That's why you can't just write and publish. Only these will understand that, will know what we are talking about, the vocabulary, the laughs. In the GSR there is so much laughing. He cried also, but he does not speak of this. Open my diary, nothing is mentioned about how I meditate, how much I have done, nothing. It is to show, privately. But when you are in the presence, you are full. You belch only what you eat. Belch something fresh, simple, two-line, three-line. Just three words become so lofty.'

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