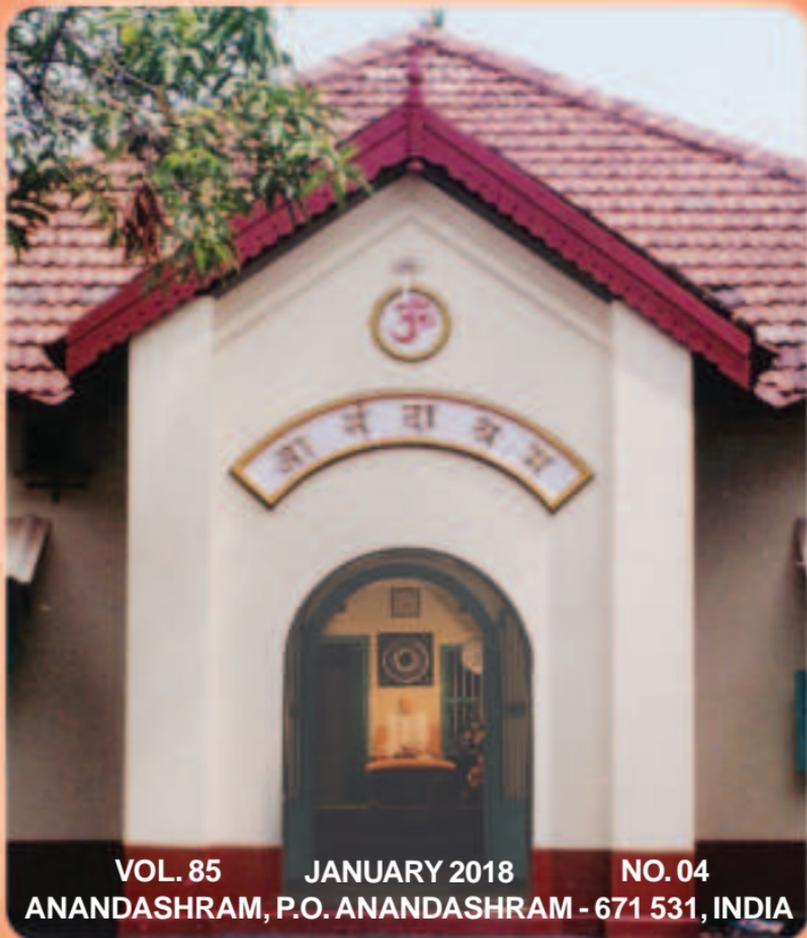




The Vision

A monthly journal started by HH Swami Ramdas in 1933
DEDICATED TO UNIVERSAL LOVE AND SERVICE



VOL. 85

JANUARY 2018

NO. 04

ANANDASHRAM, P.O. ANANDASHRAM - 671 531, INDIA



Om Sri Ram jai Ram jai jai Ram
 ॐ श्री राम जय राम जय जय राम
 Om Sri Ram jai Ram jai jai Ram

I FIND HIM EVERYWHERE

I find my God in fields and hills and dales,
 In workshop, school, office and market-place,
 In plains and forests, in the grazing herd of cows,
 In home, hospital and in power-plants,
 In huts and palaces, in halls of assemblies
 In temples, churches and in mosques,
 In solitudes and caves, in graveyards
 and cremation-grounds.

I see Him in the sky above and earth below,
 In the waters of the lakes and oceans vast,
 In the slow and swift-running streams,
 In trains, in cars and in aeroplanes,
 As well in gentle moving bullock-carts.

I behold Him awake, asleep and dreaming,
 In birth, in life and in death.

I find Him at all times, in all places, in all states.

My God is everywhere and everything.

He alone is – there is none but He.”

– Swami Ramdas

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January 2018

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THE VISION*A Monthly Magazine***Anandashram**

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FROM THE EDITOR

Beloved Papa exhorts: “Behold Divinity in every aspect of this world-Lila. Verily it is He who is at play in all beings and creatures.” How to translate these words into a reality, at least gradually, is the question before all aspirants and devotees. Remembering Him through the chanting of His name as much as possible during the off-hours of the day is the first and foremost step. Then conscious and continuous efforts to identify every object we come across with its Source – God, should follow. When these habits get rooted in us, the journey will become smooth.

While making attempts on the above lines, care should be taken to ensure that they do not slip into an intellectual or academic exercise. Words of Beloved Papa and Mahatmas also help us in our journey.

Though the contents of THE VISION for November 2017 were almost on the same subject, it is felt that every now and then we are to be reminded of this vital aspect and hence this month’s issue of THE VISION is also to be treated as an add-on to this theme.

A few revelations have also been included in this issue!

ALL THIS IS VERILY GOD

By Swami Ramdas

The truth is, man and all creatures and things are His own images in varied forms playing the game of the worlds. The dust we condemn is as much Divine as man is, of which he is made. Worlds



are teeming with God's own life. Nothing could be apart from Him. The rapture of His life fills every atom of the universe. The vision of the mystic is not a phantasy of heated brains. It is based on the highest spiritual experience and realisation. It speaks of the deepest realms of the soul. It has probed to the central root of the transcendent Truth. He cries out in an exultant voice: "All this verily is God..."

Again there is another aspect emphasised by the theist. He presumes that the world is created by God for the benefit and enjoyment of man, whilst he as such, it is to be admitted, is an infinitesimally small and insignificant creature when compared with the unimaginably vast universe, with all the millions of forms of life and countless worlds embodying it. The greatness of man lies only in the rare and illumined faculty with which God has gifted him so that he can

raise himself to that supreme consciousness which grants him the unique experience of oneness with God – the indwelling controller and the external power in manifestation. In the ecstasy of this attainment the soul does exclaim: “I am one with all life that animates the worlds – the entire universe is my visible image. My love for all is based upon my knowledge of identity with every being in spirit and in form.”

In the light of this exalted experience you now behold the worlds as the very form of God Himself illustrating His marvellous and grandiose existence. Man’s conceited supremacy has no place in this vision. He adores even a blade of grass as worthy of worship because he beholds the light and power of God in the tiniest to the same degree as in the mightiest. Can there be a loftier goal to achieve than to lose yourself in the rapture of this indescribable glorious vision and live and act in life in the spontaneous outflow of the Divine splendour in you – “living, moving and having your being in God?”...

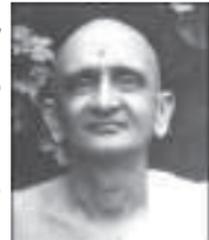
Everywhere, in every creature and thing, it is God alone who is manifest. Everywhere it is His power alone that works. The creative, constructive and destructive forces that cause, mould and change the

face of nature are entirely His because He is in all and He is all...

So, that God Himself is the universe and all creatures in it is the truth by the knowledge of which alone man can feel, comprehend and fully experience the absolute goodness, mercy and love of the almighty God. In fact, there is none but He in all the manifestations – all natures, characters and qualities, observed in the world of human beings, creatures and things, belong to His game – He alone having become all. TAT TWAM ASI.

WORDS OF BELOVED PAPA SWAMI RAMDAS

Just as to know the seed is to know the tree, so also to know the root cause of the world-manifestation which is God, is to know the nature of the manifestation.



Truth is eminently beautiful. All the visible and invisible worlds are the expressions of the Truth; hence loveliness and joy are spread out everywhere. To Divinise life is to beautify it.

God should hold sway over you. God's light should illumine your mind. God's love should permeate your heart. God's power should control your activities. In short, you should be so fully imbued with God-consciousness that your life inside and outside is fully divinised and the world is seen by you as the blissful expression of your regenerated life.

Let your life be made so fit and pure that its hidden mysteries are brought out for the fulfilment of the Divine purpose in the world which is to awaken mankind to the awareness of its identity with Him, the one great Lord and Master of the worlds.

When the flower blossoms, it shows its inner beauty and gives out its hidden fragrance. So God who lives in and permeates all objects in the world unveils the latent glory, power and joy of His being.

As the Cosmic Force, it is He who controls everything. It is by His light the sun, the moon and all luminous bodies shine. The worlds and the universes are His self-revelations. When this supreme vision is attained, what words can describe the beauty, power and glory of God?

O glorious World Master! O Thou Supreme Artist and Architect, O exquisite Dancer, the great Lover and Beloved! Thou who poureth Thy most heart-captivating celestial music, Thou art the enchanter who casteth Thy spell on all beings, drowning them in Thy eternal symphony; I bow to Thee who art Divine wisdom, infinite love, almighty power and transcendent beauty.

God, the Master Artist, has painted the world-picture on the canvas of Himself – the infinite expanse of His splendorous Spirit. What a wonderful masterpiece! What variety in shapes and colours it unfolds and presents before our love-struck eyes! Verily, God is the picture, brush, paint and artist Himself.

WORDS OF PUJYA MATAJI KRISHNABAI

Doing one's Sadhana in one's own house is like fighting a battle from the safe confines of a fortress. Whereas, if you left the house, you would be like the warrior on the plain who is poorly matched against the forces deployed against him.



First we love ourselves, then we love our kith and kin, and then people in the neighbourhood, then those in the country and finally those in the world at large. That is how we expand our vision and the method of expanding the vision, to embrace the whole universe, is to repeat Ramnam, to see Him in all forms and love everyone as we love our Guru and to serve Him in all.

When you start looking on your relatives and on the man in the street in the same light and with the same vision, it means that you have made spiritual progress and are ready to merge into Papa.

In the beginning, in order to enjoy His own bliss, Papa (God) brought forth into being the human race as also the other creatures in the world. But, while in lesser animals, God only planted that much of instinct as to help them to survive, in Man alone He planted the reasoning power, “this thing called intelligence” so that he could use it to attain his Source in due course.

As I went on doing what Papa had asked me to, I began to identify every article I saw, be it a flower, a piece of cloth or any other article, with its source,

namely, Papa (God), and to tell myself: “What a beautiful thing Papa (God) has wrought!”

WORDS OF PUJYA SWAMI SATCHIDANANDA



The world is actually not a creation of God, but a projection, which means God Himself has projected forth as the entire universe as a seed projects itself forth as a huge tree. Everyone is He and there is nothing but He.

First thing required (in Sadhana) is remembrance of God. You should take it that every object you touch is the manifestation of God. When you start your work, you may say, “Paper is God, pen is God, everything is God etc.” As you go on identifying everything with God, whatever work you do in the office or elsewhere is like the Puja where you worship God by touching the different idols, chanting Stotras, clothing the idols and feeding them etc. Everything done with deep devotion and perfect attention.

Any work – be it washing the toilets and bathrooms or cleaning the temples of worship or nursing the patients in the hospital, performing surgery

in the operation theatre, doing Bhajans and Kirtans, worship in the temple or in your Puja room, in short, any and every kind of work done with the attitude that: “This is my offering to my Lord; this is done by the power of the Lord” and with the remembrance of the Lord, it is transformed into WORSHIP OF THE LORD.

Real love can come to you only if you see Divinity in others and train your mind to accept every incident that happens in this world as happening by God’s will. So you should take it that it is by God’s will that you are employed in this office, etc. If you accept this, you would be able to adjust yourself to any condition because you will be feeling that you are dealing with God only and it is He who brings about every incident.

WORLD IS GOD

As most of us are not full-time Sadhakas, we spend only some time for chanting, Swadhyay, contemplation on the themes of our Master’s teachings, etc. However, the time spent for these activities is a small fraction compared to the time spent in other activities during the wakeful hours.

Probably this is the reason why we have not been able to keep up constant God-remembrance.

When we see an object as an object there is unknowingly a disconnection with the God-dimension in our minds. We have also mentally labeled certain activities as spiritual and others as mundane; this further compartmentalises the so-called spiritual and so-called worldly activities.

Beloved Papa, through his teachings and writings tried to demolish this divide. In the poem I FIND HIM EVERYWHERE (On Pg. 3), Beloved Papa wrote that he experienced the presence of God in fields, hills, workshop, school, office, market-place, herd of cows, graveyards and cremation-grounds, sky, earth, lakes, oceans cars, aeroplanes, bullock-carts, birth, life, death, etc.

Through this poem our attention is directed towards the God-dimension in everyone and everything.

To be able to put this profound teaching into practise, we have to develop some system by which we can try to connect everything with God. When we sit in a building or a chair; use spectacles, clothes, shoes, slippers; enjoy the electricity in the form of

light from the bulbs and air from the fans, if an effort is made on our part to bring in the God-dimension everywhere, probably we might be able to continue this Niranta Eashwar Smaran.

SOME EXAMPLES FROM EVERYDAY LIFE ARE SHARED HERE:

5 ELEMENTS:

- ◆ **Earth:** It exemplifies patience and giving.
- ◆ **Water:** Water can blend with almost anything and clean and purify things. It shows us how to be flexible, adaptable and pure.
- ◆ **Fire:** It removes the dross, thus it purifies; or transforms things when used for cooking. Similarly it shows us how to let the intensity of our Sadhana burn the dross in our minds.
- ◆ **Air:** Dynamism is observed in air. Its powerful gusts help produce electricity. Our spiritual dynamism should enable us to bring happiness in the lives of those we come into contact with.
- ◆ **Space:** Co-existence and an all-accommodating nature of space shows us how to be adaptable.

OBJECTS USED REGULARLY:

- ◆ **Broom:** A united bunch of grass helps clean up a

mess in no time. Similarly collective Sadhana gives a boost to our spiritual progress.

- ◆ **Salt:** When added to anything it adds its distinctive flavour to it. Similarly, Universal love in us should express itself in all our actions.
- ◆ **Door:** It symbolises privacy and freedom which are both key factors in our Sadhana. We need a quiet space when take to the inward journey and freedom from our fixed ideas and notions too.
- ◆ **Clock:** Time management is crucial for everything in life. In Sadhana too, it reminds is to hasten our march.
- ◆ **Mirror:** It reflects whatever is put before it. If it is clean, the reflection will be clear. Similarly, our mind can reflect purity and goodness if God-thought is dwelt on as much as possible.
- ◆ **Toothpaste tube:** We can squeeze out the toothpaste easily, but can't put it back! Similarly the words we utter should be well thought of as we cannot take them back once uttered!
- ◆ **Signpost:** Reminds us to focus on the destination.
- ◆ **Coin:** It has 2 unique sides. Similarly, though a situation may seem grim, when looked at from a

different perspective appears to be for our ultimate good.

- ◆ **Pin/Screw:** Though small in nature it can hold things in place. Similarly the smallest things play a unique role in our lives.
- ◆ **Incense sticks:** The selflessness of the incense sticks demonstrates that the end and aim of all our spiritual pursuits is to become one with all and to contribute, in whatever way possible, towards the collective well-being of co-creations.
- ◆ **Spinning top:** The spinning top appears to be motionless when spinning, as if it were in a state of deep meditation! Similarly, one can lead an active life and still be contemplative within.

PEOPLE:

- ◆ **Postman:** Brings our post thus connecting us with others. Similarly, Sadhana should connect us with our co-creations.
- ◆ **Nurse (Injection):** A nurse injects a patient which causes pain. However the pain is for relief from an ailment. Similarly, the pain of ups and downs in life is for the ultimate good.
- ◆ **Tailor (Clothes):** The pieces of cloth in a shirt

stitched by a tailor are held together by a common thread, similarly, we need to remember the Common Thread, God, who is the true basis of our existence.

- ◆ **Mason (Foundation stone):** The mason builds a building starting with the foundation stones. However, the foundation stones are not visible when the building is ready. Without the foundation the building cannot stand firmly in place. Similarly, values are what our character is built on.
- ◆ **Carpenter (Sand-paper):** Sand-paper is used by the carpenter to smoothen out the roughness in the wood before polishing it. Similarly, we see that it is the finishing touches in all actions that often bring out perfection.
- ◆ **Driver:** While driving we need to be alert. Similarly in our Sadhana we need to be watchful of every thought, word and deed.

BIRDS AND ANIMALS:

- ◆ **Dog:** Obedience of a dog reminds to be obedient to the in-dwelling Lord.
- ◆ **Eagle:** It flies at very high altitudes and yet has a keen sight. This reminds us to see the big picture

and yet be aware of the little things that contribute to our well-being.

- ◆ **Spider:** It perseveringly makes a web. Similarly we need perseverance in our spiritual practices.
- ◆ **Fireflies:** The glow in the firefly reminds us to be the light unto ourselves.
- ◆ **Lizard:** The tail of a lizard grows back if it gets cut. Similarly, we can keep on improving ourselves day-after-day.

PLANTS AND TREES:

- ◆ **Seed:** It reminds us that there is potential in all. It also symbolises hope.
- ◆ **Thorn:** Reminds us that pain can be caused even by tiny things.
- ◆ **Flower:** Even when crushed, it gives out a beautiful fragrance. It epitomises unconditional love.
- ◆ **Falling (dry) leaf:** Shows us detachment and non-resistance. It teaches us how to let go.
- ◆ **Creepers:** Just as creepers cannot grow without support, total reliance on the Divine means accepting that He knows and we don't.
- ◆ **Photosynthesis:** The plants generate energy from

sunlight. There is nothing between the sun and the countless plants. Similarly, there is no need of any intermediary between the Creator and the Creation.

- ◆ **Vegetable Garden:** All vegetables grown in a garden with all common inputs exhibit their distinctive tastes. Similarly, spiritual aspirants should aim at the uniqueness inherent in them and not to be swayed by the outer conditions or environments.

EXPERIENCES IN LIFE:

- ◆ **Standing in a queue:** Equal opportunity for all.
- ◆ **School:** The first place where we learn to share, acknowledge the presence of others, grow together, make space for each other, etc. is the school. Thus we learn to expand our love-circle from the individual level to the rest of the creation.
- ◆ **Cooked food:** It retains its taste only for a limited period of time. Similar the joy derived from sense objects lasts only for a short while.
- ◆ **Fence:** The sapling planted on the roadside is protected by a fence. However, as it grows into

a tree, it outgrows the fence. Similarly, one has to transcend the institutions to achieve complete spiritual flowering.

- ◆ **Scaffolding:** Just as the scaffolding around a building is taken off once the work is done. Similarly, one cannot always depend upon external factors for one's spiritual progress.
- ◆ **Birth, growth, decay and death:** Common for living beings.
- ◆ **Sunrise, sunset:** Portray regularity, and equal availability to all.
- ◆ **Wilting of a flower:** Symbolises the transient nature of everything.
- ◆ **Pot and mud:** Effect is nothing but cause in different forms.
- ◆ **Heat:** When passed through heat, clay turns to brick, gold sheds its impurities, raw food gets cooked. This shows that intense efforts and stress precede excellence.
- ◆ **Cause and effect:** Fire burns, bitter guard tastes bitter, one sinks in swampy area, etc. These show us that knowledge of the characteristics of matter frees us from grumbling and complaining.

- ◆ **Discoveries and inventions:** Depict an inquiring attitude.
- ◆ **Creativity:** Only a human being can know, discover, invent, innovate and realize God. Human birth is precious gift of God.
- ◆ **Waves:** Watching the waves rise and fall reminds us that we should watch our thoughts arise and subside.
- ◆ **Ariel View:** Looking down from a hill-top everything is orderly and beautiful. Similarly we should raise ourselves to a higher level to see everything as beautiful.
- ◆ **Writing Alphabets or learning the mathematical tables by heart:** Show us that repetitive performance of actions leads to perfection.
- ◆ **Holding a hot pan with bare hands burns:** Observing our mistakes enables the non-recurrence of errors and also teaches us to become careful.
- ◆ **Doing homework before going to school:** If we want to understand something, we have to prepare ourselves.
- ◆ **Cleaning the room with a broomstick:** Nothing is insignificant. Everything has relevance.

- ◆ **Students with their bag sitting in their place in the classroom:** Conveys that confining oneself to one's own place and not encroaching on others' space results in harmony.
- ◆ **Serving:** In times of calamities, everyone rises to the occasion for serving even strangers. This shows that love and compassion are inherent in everyone though we are not aware of it.
- ◆ **Watching the sea:** Dynamic outside but quiet when we go deeper down. Similarly when we go deep within ourselves, it is quiet and pure.
- ◆ **Raindrop flowing into the ocean:** Reminds us that everyone is destined to merge with the Source
- ◆ **Drops of water make a dent in a rock:** Perseverance and concentration are all that matter for spiritual progress.
- ◆ **Making tea:** For having a cup of tea, the ingredients: water, milk, sugar and tea leaves, should blend properly. Moreover, to prepare it, one should have (1) the knowledge of preparing the same and the needed ingredients, (2) the focused dedication and love to keep up the quality and (3) finally the act of preparing. Similarly,

our Sadhana has to blend all the three – knowledge, devotion and action.

SEEING THE LORD EVERYWHERE

The Bhagavad Gita, as stated by several Mahatmas, is a mine of wisdom. It has many Shlokas dwelling on the essence of spirituality i.e. seeing the Lord everywhere and on how to become aware of the God-dimension while being active in our daily life. Some Shlokas from the 13th Chapter have been brought out here:

Shloka 25:

*Yavat Sanjayate Kincit Sattvam Sthavara Jangamam
Ksetra Ksetrajna Samyogath Tad Viddhi Bharatarsabha*

Whatever being is born, the moving or the unmoving, oh bull of Bharatas, know it to be from the union of Kshetra and Kshetrajna. Interaction between Prakriti and Purusha is what brings about this multiplicity of beings in this world. For explaining any activity the interaction of matter and Spirit are required, else there is just dead matter.

Shloka 26:

*Samam Sarveshu Bhutheshu Thistantham Parameshwaram
Vinasyatsvavinashyantam Ya: PashyatiSa: Pashyati*

He sees, who sees the Supreme Lord existing equally in all beings, the imperishable in the perishable. Everything in the phenomenal world is subject to modifications such as birth, growth, disease, decay and death. When the Supreme Lord is indicated here as deathless all other modifications are denied in Him. He who is capable of recognising the Supreme Lord, who reveals the same everywhere as the Pure Sprit, in all names and forms, who changes not while the outer equipments change, He alone is the one who sees what is to be seen.

Shloka 27:

*Samam Pasyanhi Sarvatra Samavasthitam Easwaram
Na Hinasti Atamana Amanam Tato Yati Param Gatim*

Seeing the Lord equally present everywhere, he or she injures not the Self by the self and so goes to the highest goal. (Seeing that Divine Lord everywhere, who exists in all beings equally, will not injure the Self by the self). When you do not see the Atman in the other being, you may do immense harm to him or her and also to yourself. That should not be. When you do not see the Atman in yourself, you are doing immense harm to yourself. You take your

body, which separates you from others to be the Self. And so, you create a wall of separation between yourself and others.

WORDS OF ACHARYA VINOBA BHAVE

The children are taught the alphabet in two ways. One method is to teach the letters first by writing them in big size. When the children are conversant with them, they are acquainted with the letters in smaller sizes. The other method is to teach simple letters first and the complicated 'joint' letters thereafter.

In the same way, we should first learn to see God in bigger and more conspicuous things. The Lord manifest in oceans or high mountains can be grasped at once. When we come to experience His presence therein, we shall realize subsequently that He is present even in a drop of water or a speck of dust. There is no difference between the capital 'A' and the small 'a'. This is one way. The other way is to see Him first in His simpler manifestations... Our vision should be informed with this outlook while reading the book of this world. The vast creation is like the Lord's book. When our eyes are covered with thick veils, we think

that the book is closed. Everywhere in this book, the name of the Lord is written in beautiful letters but we fail to read that...

SEE GOD FIRST IN THE POSITIVE ASPECTS

As stated by Vinobaji (in the previous article), we first have to learn to write capital letters and later lowercase letter and then joint letters. Similarly, we should try to see Godliness first in positive things and then in all.

Here are a few traits with which we can easily associate Divinity as they tend to give us inexplicable pleasant feelings because the predominance of 'me' and 'mine' is absent:

- | | |
|------------------------------|---------------------------------------|
| 1 Acceptance | 2 Acknowledging the success of others |
| 3 Bravery | 4 Broadmindedness |
| 5 Calmness | 6 Cleanliness |
| 7 Clearing misunderstandings | |
| 8 Commitment | 9 Compassion |
| 10 Concern for others | 11 Contentment |
| 12 Courage | 13 Creativity |
| 14 Dedication | 15 Efficiency |

- | | |
|--------------------|-----------------------|
| 16 Endurance | 17 Equality |
| 18 Equanimity | 19 Excellence |
| 20 Faithfulness | 21 Feeling for others |
| 22 Feeling oneness | 23 Forgiveness |
| 24 Frankness | 25 Fraternity |
| 26 Friendship | 27 Fullness |
| 28 Generousness | 29 Gentleness |
| 30 Gratitude | 31 Honesty |
| 32 Humility | 33 Innocence |
| 34 Kindness | 35 Love |
| 36 Orderliness | 37 Patience |
| 38 Peace | 39 Perfection |
| 40 Perseverance | 41 Presence of mind |
| 42 Regularity | 43 Reverence |
| 44 Sacrifice | 45 Satisfaction |
| 46 Self-control | 47 Self-effacement |
| 48 Selflessness | 49 Service |
| 50 Sharing | 51 Shraddha |
| 52 Simplicity | 53 Smile |
| 54 Sportiveness | 55 Sportsmanship |

56 Surrender

57 Tenderness

58 Tolerance

59 Truthfulness

60 Understanding others 61 Uprightness

DEAR CHILDREN

There was a farmer who grew excellent quality corn. Every year he won the award for the best grown corn. One year a newspaper reporter interviewed him and learned something interesting about how he grew it. The reporter discovered that the farmer shared his corn seeds with his neighbours. “How can you afford to share some of your best corn seeds with your neighbours when they are entering corn in the competition with yours each year?” the reporter asked.

“Why sir,” said the farmer, “Didn’t you know? The wind picks up pollen from the ripening corn and swirls it from field to field. If my neighbours grow inferior corn, cross-pollination will steadily degrade the quality of my corn. If I am to grow good corn, I must help my neighbours grow good corn.”

So is it with our lives... Those who want to live meaningfully and well must help enrich the lives of others, for the value of a life is measured by the lives it touches. And those who choose to be happy must

help others find happiness, for the welfare of each is bound up with the welfare of all... Call it a principle of success... Call it a law of life! The fact is, none of us truly wins, until we all win!!

EPISTLES OF SWAMI RAMDAS

Beloved Ram,

...No work is without value – whether you are paid wages for it or not. Work becomes joy when you do it without regard for its results or fruit. Since, as you say, you are working in the office only for wages, you get the idea that you work by your own individual power, forgetting that the Divine Shakti within you is propelling you to action. Hence it is that you are dissatisfied with the work which does not yield you the joy which it ought. So long as you maintain this mentality, even if you are called upon to do the work which Ramdas is doing now, you would not be free from the reaction and bondage of work. The remedy lies in the eradication of the lower self or the ego-sense, no matter what action you put forth and what circumstances condition that action. If you surrender to the Divine Shakti in you, and offer up all your actions to Her, your work would be a spontaneous outflow,

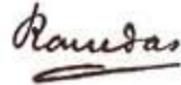
giving you the experience of pure joy.

Know that – reward or no reward – you work in the office or the workshop, because God has appointed you for the task. Very often we are engaged in activities which bring us no tangible, direct profit or compensation; still we are in for them. The worker, who has realised that the Divine Power is reflected in all his actions, is not concerned with their fruits; and, the Divine Mother, to whom he has surrendered, looks after him. He is never made to feel any want, however poor he may be in the external possessions of life. “My devotee perisheth never.” The wages you think that the officer pays you, are then realised to be coming from the Lord Himself for His service, service rendered to Him by the power He has granted you. Yours is not to determine the exact return for your work, but to be contented with what God allows you as your share in the outcome of your toil. You keep working all the time without an eye to the result thereof and through right concentration get absorbed in the work itself, and enjoy freedom and bliss.

Before the attainment of the goal, life appears to be a perpetual struggle to every man, be he a householder or not...

You have struck the right note when you conclude your letter with the remark – experience is the true guide that alone could solve our problems. What Ramdas' experience has taught him he has placed before you. Verily, experience is the real Guru. Such a Guru has opened Ramdas' eyes to the Reality and has freed him from attachment to the vanishing forms around him, an attachment which is the cause of misery in the world...

Love to you and all there.



**PUJYA SWAMI ISHWARANANDA GIRI
ATTAINS MAHA SAMADHI**

Revered Swami Isharananda Giriji of Santa Sarovar, Mount Abu, dropped his mortal coil on the 8th of November 2017. His body was ailing with liver problem and he was in the hospital for 2 weeks prior to shuffling off the mortal coil.

Pujya Sadyojat Shankarashram Swamiji of Chitrapur Math, who was the disciple of Revered Swamiji and who later became the 11th Guru of the Chitrapur Saraswat Guru Parampara, rushed to Mount Abu on hearing the news of the ailment. He was in

Mount Abu till Pujya Swamiji dropped the body.

May Revered Swamiji's life and mission continue to inspire and guide earnest aspirants in their spiritual journey.

IN MEMORIAM

- ◆ Smt Ananthalekshmy A Eswaran from Mumbai, who was the daughter of Late Kaveri Ammal was called by Beloved Papa on the 21st of September 2017.
- ◆ Sri G Subhash, devotee from Hyderabad was also called by Beloved Papa on the 25th of September 2017.
- ◆ Smt Sita Sundaram, another old and ardent devotee of the Ashram from Mumbai, was called by Beloved Papa too on the 18th of November 2017. She was the daughter of Sri Balasubramaniam, known to all in the Ashram as Balaji Mama.
- ◆ Smt Sakkubai a devotee from Hyderabad was also called by HIM on the 19th of November 2017. She had been ailing for the last few months and was in and out of the hospital several times.

- ◆ Smt Damyanti Mehaboobani, another ardent devotee of the Ashram from Coonor dropped her mortal coil on the 24th November 2017.

We pray for the Lord's blessings on the dear departed souls for eternal rest and peace at His lotus feet.

IMPORTANT DAYS IN 2018

Jan 24	Wed	Pujya Mataji's Mahasamadhi Day
Mar 31	Sat	Beloved Papa's Jayanthi
Jul 27	Fri	Guru Purnima
Aug 15	Wed	Beloved Papa's Mahasamadhi Day
Oct 8	Mon	Pujya Mataji's Jayanthi
Oct 12	Fri	Pujya Swamiji's Mahasamadhi Day
Nov 12	Mon	Pujya Swamiji's Jayanthi
Dec 27	Thu	Beloved Papa's Sannyas Day

ANANDASHRAM NEWS

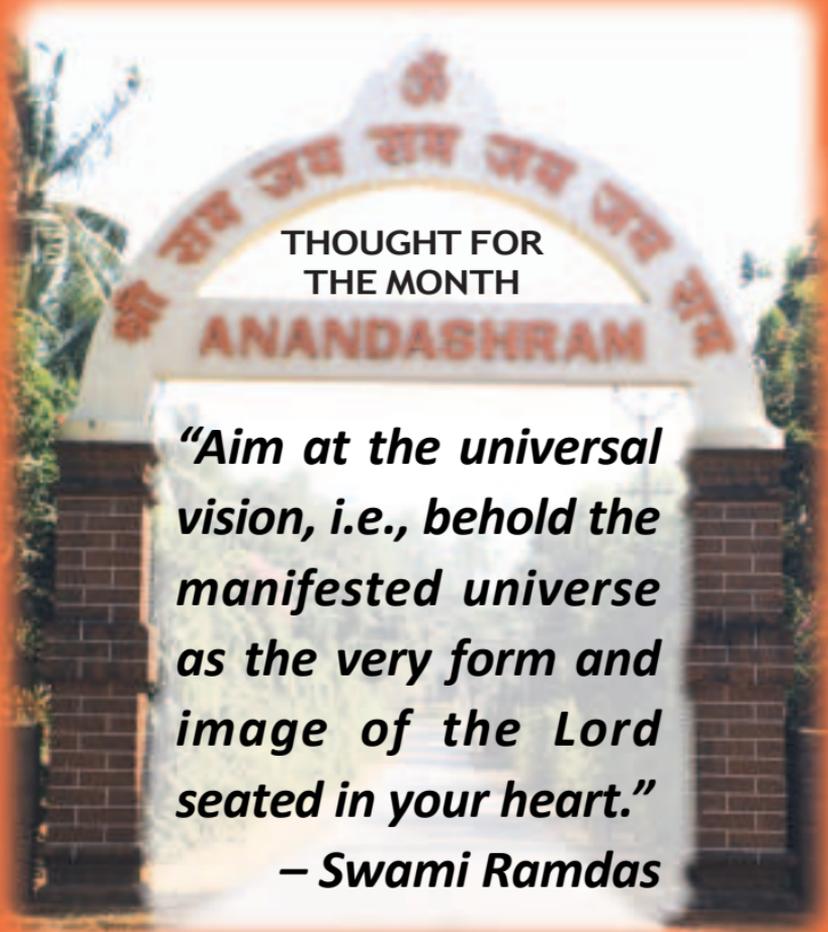
15,500-CRORE NAMA JAPA YAGNA FOR WORLD PEACE: The total Japa received in the third round of the 15500-Crore Nama Japa Yagna For World Peace in the month of November is 200 crores. The grand total of the Japa done so far in this round now stands at 1965 crores.

MESSAGE FOR THE NEW YEAR

Each year that passes heralds a New Year. For most of us, this is a non-event; while for a few, these are times to make new resolutions, new vows and fresh resolves. We should belong to the latter category as that alone will make us do something significant and justify our existence. Let us make a fervent prayer to the Creator to help us remain steadfast towards our commitment of remembering Him in all actions and seeing Him in all beings and creations. The Creator is not far away from His creation. It is sufficient to love and serve one and all with a universal vision.

To constantly remind ourselves about our goal, great saints have suggested resolves and fervent prayers as a means to progress. Here is one such by Mata Narayani: 'At the dawn of this New Year, I place my head on the feet of all those who have given me love and helped me to experience life in the valley and the peak. May I never forget for one minute that without the Beloved Presence I am nothing. May Peace and Truth walk beside me, Gentleness and Caring go before me, Understanding and Awareness be within the heart at all times.'

R.N.: 3047/57 || Registered: KL/KSZ/8/2018-20
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Date of Publication: 01/01/2018



***“Aim at the universal vision, i.e., behold the manifested universe as the very form and image of the Lord seated in your heart.”
– Swami Ramdas***

Edited and published by : Swami Muktananda on behalf of
Anandashram Trust, Kanhangad.
and printed by him through : Latha Unlimited, Mangalore.