



The Vision

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

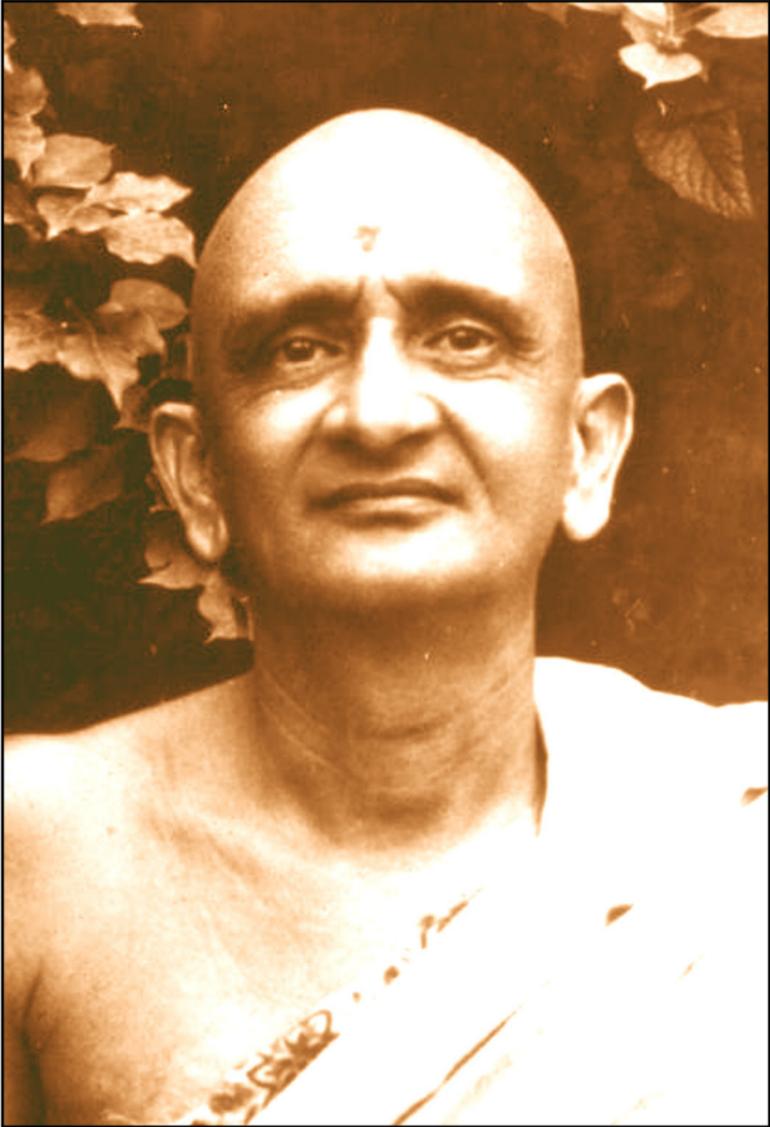
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Beloved Papa Swami Ramdas (1884-1963)

Om Sri Ram jai Ram jai jai Ram

ॐ श्री राम जय राम जय जय राम

Om Sri Ram jai Ram jai jai Ram

BLISSFUL INNER WITNESS

The pattern of my life was woven by You,
So also of all lives.

The outer patterns are different,
But You, who are the Inner Spirit,
Are one and the same in all.
In the quest of You I found
You are the blissful Inner Witness,
The Spirit in me and in all beings.
All patterns are mine, designed by me —
My forms, my bodies, my outer expressions.
Ultimately the truth dawned in me,
I am in all Yourself, or You are in all myself.

— **Swami Ramdas**

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FROM THE EDITOR

n earnest pursuit to unearth the blessed life and teachings of Beloved Papa Swami Ramdas, through the reading of his book IN QUEST OF GOD, reveals that he wandered all over India, from the deep South to the far North, abandoning all comforts and conveniences of earthly life, relying only on the Great Provider. Often, the sky was his roof and the earth his bed; wild streams quenched his thirst; in fact, he was led, fed and taken care of by Ram in different forms. Indeed, no one was a stranger to him, for, he found Ram in everyone along the way; he shared his endless love and compassion with the whole of humanity. He wanted everyone to walk towards that which would provide unending peace and happiness.

When Pujya Mataji Krishnabai insisted that every now and then, all devotees, should read Beloved Papa's first book, IN QUEST OF GOD, 11 times at a stretch in 11 days, nobody gave serious thought to the real purpose of this endeavour; nor did they understand how it would help them in their spiritual journey. Later on, it slowly dawned on those who followed her advice that this repeated act of reading and re-reading the book at a deeper level greatly helps

not only in understanding, assimilating and absorbing everything about the spiritual journey but also in providing the foundational material that is needed for an earnest aspirant at the start of the pursuit.

The book also guides one to be able to overcome many hurdles that one may come across while moving towards the Ultimate.

Going through the book IN QUEST OF GOD with the above perspective is an inner churning and an inward journey to explore a little deeper into the hitherto unknown or less understood facets of Beloved Papa's life and teachings.

From this month onwards THE VISION will carry results of this inner exploration.

— Editor



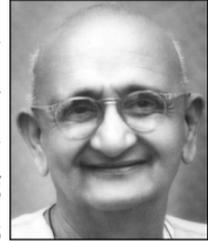
Ramdas' Sadhana continued for three or four years. In the first year he never had sleep. He was repeating Ram Nam day and night. He used to lie down at night closing his eyes and would be in a state of ecstasy. Though without sleep, he felt no weakness or exhaustion. He was very active and cheerful.

— Swami Ramdas

MOULDED IN THE HANDS OF RAM!

By Swami Ramdas

It was in the year 1921, in Mangalore, that the all-merciful Lord of the Universe first fired Ramdas' bosom with a keen longing to realise Him. From that time his



life was undergoing a marvellous change. His one overwhelming passion and aim of life was to live for God and God alone. God's powerful Name was indelibly stamped on his tongue. Now it was that he was becoming conscious of a Divine influence working silently but irresistibly in him gradually dominating and possessing him. He felt an awakening within the very core of his being. With steady steps and unflagging zeal, he now entered upon a path of rigorous self-discipline. The trials and hardships of the path did not daunt him. Repeated appeals, persuasions and remonstrances could not make him swerve an inch from this path. He was calm, earnest and determined. As time passed in prayer, fasting and repetition of God's Name, the consciousness of Divine possession and guidance assumed such a predominance that at last the Divine Voice within him drove him forth from Mangalore into the wide world.

What was his condition at this momentous hour? He was a dazed and helpless creature caught in the grip of an all-powerful Being. He did not know what he was doing. He was under the full control of an Almighty Power without any offer of resistance on his part — just as a baby in the hands of its mother. Verily, it was God alone who held him — a God who is at once his Divine Mother and Master, so real, loving, kind and good. How tenderly He nursed and guided His new-born offspring during his first year's itinerant life all over India forms the theme of IN QUEST OF GOD.

During that period his mind was merged in a unique stillness of peace; his life was one of unreserved self-surrender; and, as regards the world, in a sense it was not there for him, that is, he was dead as it were to the world. He was travelling from place to place like an automaton as if in a dream, indifferent to — nay, unconscious of — his body and environments. All through it, God to whom he had surrendered up his life was mysteriously influencing his movements and controlling and taking care of him in every way. It was really an entire dedication on one side and a watchful, benevolent protection on the other.

He experienced that he was living and moving in

a new world in which he felt that there was none other than himself and his Great Master — Ram, his all-in-all. In this wonderful vision of inexpressible ecstasy and peace he struggled to dwell always. This exalted Consciousness, possessing as it did the characteristic of perfect vacancy or emptiness, was filled with an ineffable rapture of peace, silence and repose. The dual throng, pleasure and pain, good and evil, cold and heat, etc. relating to the physical body affected him not, for his mind was not there to take note of these sensations; it would always be in tune with the Infinite Spirit of stillness and peace. There were occasions when under certain conditions he would be dragged down with a jerk as it were to the sense of the old world and its associations, but he would be instantly pulled up by that silent and watchful Spirit within.

In those days Ramdas' haunts were caves, jungles, ruins, riversides, graveyards, hills and cremation grounds. It appeared that these places exerted on him a strange fascination. Instinctively he avoided the din and bustle of the city life and was unconsciously led away from it to dreadful solitudes. The sense of fear had vanished from him entirely — danger and death had lost their terrors for him. A feeling of perfect assurance, security and protection was ever with him.

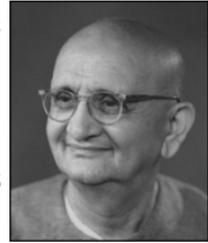
The powerful Ram-Mantram never left his lips. He was uttering like a machine. It has been revealed in IN QUEST OF GOD how miraculously he was more than once saved from terrible situations — to mould, transform and manipulate him as He willed — a wax lump in His dexterous hands.

He was indifferent alike to his body and to the external world and was found absorbed solely in Ram-Smaran or God-remembrance. He was also discovered to be like a child, passive, docile and obedient. He was bathed, clothed, fed and led in all things. In fact, he had neither attraction nor repulsion for the world. His attitude towards it was simply inexpressible, for he felt, in fact, nothing to interest him in the world, and curiosity he had none. It was simply a wonderful state. Even intellect and emotion seemed to have ceased to function. Truly, God by His power had eradicated from his heart the false, self-asserting ego, and was working Himself in its place.

During this period Ramdas scarcely talked. He was perfectly fearless. Love and hate, like and dislike, conveyed no meaning for him. In brief, he could be likened to a dry leaf tossed at random as the wind of Divine will listed. It was thus that he was guided back by God to Mangalore after a year's absence.

WORDS OF BELOVED PAPA SWAMI RAMDAS

Unquestioning Compliance
With Divine Will:



Can you form an idea of the severe struggle Ramdas had to pass through before attaining God? We should not make the mistake of thinking that by our efforts we get Him. Really, by His will, grace and power alone we can have Him. Even before Ramdas left Mangalore in 1922, it had become increasingly clear to him that God had taken him up for granting him the vision and experience of His light, power and joy. In the book IN QUEST OF GOD, you will find that he left Mangalore not of his own accord. God wanted him to go out of Mangalore and wander about. Everything Ramdas did was at the prompting or inspiration of God. When we are on the path, the best way is to struggle, with the knowledge that He is making us struggle. He is giving us the incentive to do Sadhana. The teacher gives a lesson to his pupil and watches. So also, He is watching and guiding us in every action. When led into solitudes Ramdas went there like an automaton. God willed that he should

go there and he obeyed. In the midst of wild beasts, he had absolutely no fear because he was obeying the Master's command. And nothing untoward happened.



God Leads:

After Ramdas had received the initiation from his Guru, guidance always came to him from within. As he recognized this, he would not care for the advice of anybody. Many told him he was going on the wrong path. But the fact was he did not know whether what he was doing was right or wrong. God had set him on the path and therefore he had no fear of fall or frustration. We must always feel He is guiding us. God must inspire us in all things. We should feel God leads us on. There is no reasoning and planning here. The urge comes from within and we act. Many people struggle egoistically for years without any spiritual attainment.

You ought to know that God is directing you. You must be conscious of it. For instance, at the age of thirty-eight suddenly the change came over Ramdas. He was leading an ordinary life. Hunger for God came to him because God gave it to him. Why did he not have it earlier? God did not will it. He felt that it was He who called him away. In his book he has stated that God drove him away from Mangalore.

In fact, God led him away, just as a mother leads the child by the hand to any place she likes. In the book *WORLD IS GOD* the first chapter is entitled 'God Leads'. People often ask what made Ramdas give up everything and go away. Ramdas' only answer is, "God made him do so". His renunciation was not reasoned out or planned out. The urge was so strong that he could not resist it. It was all in His hands. God did whatever He liked with him. There was no question of why and wherefore.



Oneness With God:

Many years ago, Ramdas was thinking that he was separate from God. He was taking His name and praying to Him so that he might be merged in His all-pervading, all-transcendent Being. But gradually light dawned on Ramdas by which he realised that the difference between him and God was false. Then God spoke to Ramdas: "You call yourself My servant. But you and I are one". His grace came in such abundance that the ego totally disappeared, just as darkness disappears when light is brought. So, by continuous thought of Him, the ego-sense was completely destroyed. Ramdas found out that he and the Supreme Being are one. Thereafter, his one mission was to tell everybody about God!

WITH THE DIVINE MOTHER

By Swami Shuddhananda

Bhajan Mandir: Puja Mataji called Sri Darshan Singh and Sri Shahbai (BM Shah) and told them to enlist eleven persons who were willing to read IN QUEST OF



GOD daily for eleven days, completing the entire book each day. The list was quickly made up. Mataji asked the concerned devotees to do 14 rounds of the Homa Mandir from the outside after completing each day's reading. Mataji first asked the devotees who had enlisted themselves for the reading and Pradakshina to place their copies of IN QUEST OF GOD on the Samadhi of Beloved Papa and to pray to Him to bless their efforts in this direction and to grant them realization, and only then, to start their reading. Later, in the afternoon, Mataji elaborated: "The idea came to me from Papa all of a sudden, when Darshan was prostrating and I asked him if he was ready to complete reading of IN QUEST OF GOD daily for eleven days. When he agreed, I saw Shahbai enter the room and I told him also and then asked him to enrol in all eleven persons for this

purpose. Today is Purnima and Holi. Holi signifies killing of Kamadeva who represents all desires. So, if you start reading IN QUEST OF GOD today, with a prayer to Papa to burn all your Kama or desires and thereby your Deha-Buddhi (body-consciousness) as well, and if you pray to Papa with sincere devotion, Papa is bound to grant your prayer.”



Papa's Room: Mataji has been evincing keen interest in the progress made by the 'volunteer' devotees in reading IN QUEST OF GOD daily. She asked those present how much time each one took to finish the reading.

Mataji: “While reading do you give full attention to what you have read or do you just skip through it?”

One devotee : “No, Mataji. I find, as days go by, that I take more and more time. Papa's language in IN QUEST OF GOD is so sweet that at places, I feel like lingering over the lines, tasting it again and again like a sweet.”

Mataji: “That is how it should be. That is why I asked you all to read IN QUEST OF GOD, in order to imbibe its sweetness.”



PAPA'S UNIQUE SPIRITUAL APPROACH

By Swami Satchidananda

Beloved Papa renounced the so-called worldly life and saw everything as Divine and therefore accepted and embraced the whole universe as his own. The impact



of the renunciation or the spirit of renunciation he had, burnt off all his Vasanas and gave him a new life, as it were, and made him Swami Ramdas, and that impact had its influence on the lives of innumerable devotees who saw him and followed his teachings. It will continue to influence the lives of thousands of devotees in future also. Such is the effect of one person's renunciation.

Only by God's grace one can get such renunciation. It is not by our power or by our effort that we get such fiery renunciation. But what we can do is to appreciate or understand what Beloved Papa gained by his renunciation and try to reach such a state so that we may also enjoy the same peace and bliss. In fact, I would say, the word renunciation does not suit very well in our Beloved Papa's case, because acceptance of everything was his creed.

Beloved Papa was so devoted to God, so immersed in God-remembrance, so forgetful of the day-to-day world that he did not want anything else. He wanted only God. He wanted to live in God, move in God and have his being in God. So, all the other things, that is, the household, the relations, the old family life itself, dropped away from him setting him free. He became a free bird and wandered all over India with Ram Nam on his lips and the vision of Ram everywhere and accepting everything that happened as happening by the will of God. There was absolutely no struggle in his giving up things or renouncing things. You must have read in his books, IN QUEST OF GOD and IN THE VISION OF GOD, that his only aim was to keep up God-remembrance all the 24 hours and submit to His will in all matters and thus remain in constant communion with Him. It is a great lesson for us.

Our effort should be to remember God constantly and thus remain in communion with Him ceaselessly. We should seek only God. If we want also many other things of the world, our devotion becomes divided, and we may not find time to remember God constantly as other things we are after drag our mind down. But those devotees who want only God should devote all the 24 hours for God-remembrance employing every

method possible. Then automatically other things fall away from us without effort.

In Beloved Papa's case we have seen on some occasions he had no food to eat. He was so oblivious to hunger and thirst because he was absorbed in God. When somebody offered food to him, he told that friend, "Oh friend, you reminded Ramdas of food!" So also, if we live in God all the time, we will be forgetting our worldly needs and comforts. Automatically the Divine qualities will be developing in us without our knowledge.

Unfortunately, what is happening with us is that though we are prepared to renounce big things like family, position and properties, we are not able to give up small things like likes, dislikes and petty prejudices which unfortunately hinder our progress. If we maintain God-remembrance all the 24 hours and if we are successful in that, we can be sure we will be guided unerringly. We will not be made to slip down from the path. God will be protecting us every moment. So our effort must only be to maintain His remembrance all the 24 hours of the day — at least during all our waking hours. This is what our Beloved Papa did and expects us all to do.



VITTAL RAO TO SWAMI RAMDAS — A TRANSFORMATION!

he spiritual journey stands for the transition of consciousness from the individual level to the universal level.

God works in mysterious ways to awaken man from the drab life to which he is bound to the magnanimity of a Divinely inspired life of fullness. The present endeavour is to look at how this journey transformed Vittal Rao to Swami Ramdas. It shows how the pattern of his life was chalked out by Ram for its fruition.

It would also help the readers to look back at their own lives and see the guiding finger of God working through the events for the ultimate good.

Struggle Leads To Despondency

God arranged the events to unfold in such a manner in the life of Vittal Rao that he was faced with failure after failure, for no fault of his. His checkered career marked brief periods of employment followed by longer periods of unemployment. He later started his own business in dyeing fabrics and printing sarees. But he was too honest to be a businessman and the financial condition of the business was drifting from

bad to worse. His domestic life also was none too happy. The storms of life enveloped Vittal Rao in their furious blasts and the world appeared a hotbed of burning coals.

As long as one is imprisoned in the sense of individuality, there are bound to be cares, anxieties, uncertainties and pains, coupled with stress and restlessness. The stress from successive failures in life prepared the grounds for Vittal Rao to undertake the spiritual journey.

Swadhyaya And Contemplation

Downcast by the harrowing state of affairs, Vittal Rao started attending Bhajan sessions at his brother's home. During the sessions, he would be in a blissful state of self-forgetfulness. He also commenced reading afresh the lofty teachings of Sri Ramakrishna Paramahansa, the works of Swami Vivekananda and Swami Rama Tirtha, as well as other books like the YOGA VASISHTHA and SHRIMAD BHAGAVAD GITA. These works now seemed to unveil a deeper meaning and significance than they ever did before and had the effect of accelerating the speed of the spiritual evolution that was subtly taking place within him.

Heartfelt Cry To The Lord

A feeling of total helplessness overcomes the individual only when one has exhausted all of one's

resources. It is only then that the yearning heart cries out to the Lord seated within to come to one's succour. Such was the state of mind of Vittal Rao. His heartfelt cry to the Lord can best be conveyed through his most poignant words: "For nearly a year, Ramdas struggled on in a world full of cares, anxieties and pains. It was a period of terrible stress and restlessness — all of his own making. In this utterly helpless condition, full of misery, 'Where is relief? Where is rest?' this was the heart's cry of Ramdas."

Surrender

Vittal Rao saw the hollowness of the ephemeral world and thus resigned himself to the Eternal. Hereafter, surrender was the very bedrock of his entire life. He said: "Those who take refuge in God are ever fearless. There is for them a sense of security — both spiritual and physical. Ramdas can bear out this truth from his own experience. God took him up and made him His own. From that time onwards, he has been experiencing wonderful protection and security in all circumstances and situations."

In fact, Beloved Papa's book, IN QUEST OF GOD, begins with the oft-quoted Shloka in the BHAGAVAD GITA wherein Lord Krishna says:

*Ananyaaschiyanto Maam
Ye Janaah Paryupaasatey
Tesdaam Nityaabhiyuktaanaam
Yogakshemam Vahaamyaham*

“To those who worship Me alone, thinking of no other, to such devotees who are ever united with Me in contemplation, I bring full security, fulfilling all their wants and taking care of them.”

Intuitive Voice

Surrender quietened the raging waves of Vittal Rao’s mind which enabled him to listen to the intuitive voice from the Great Void: “Despair not! Trust Me and thou shalt be free!”

This reassurance pacified Vittal Rao. He said: “These encouraging words of Ram proved like a plank thrown towards a man struggling for very life in the stormy waves of a raging sea. The great assurance soothed the aching heart of helpless Ramdas, like gentle rain on thirsting earth.”

Pursuit Of The Eternal

The peace, quietude, serenity, stillness experienced after handing himself over to the Divine is when the pursuit of the Eternal began “under His (Ram’s) direct guidance and support”.

The glimpse of the calmness and peace he

experienced drove Vittal Rao to make an all-out effort to retain it. This led him to contemplate (meditate) on the Quietness and chant the Divine Name — Ram — as an aid to meditation. Thus, experiencing the nearness of Ram and being in communion with Him!

Gateway To The Eternal

Heartfelt prayer and Nama chanting, were found to be the gateway to the Eternal.

As creature comforts occupy a major part of one's mind-space, to replace that with God-thought, Beloved Papa took up austerities and self-denial, of course coupled with meditation and chanting of the Divine Name to keep up God-remembrance. These resulted in feeling the presence of God.

Hurdles

Not only did Vittal Rao have to be vigilant about what would aid him on the path, but he also had to identify the hurdles that were hindering his progress in experiencing the presence of God at all times. The biggest roadblock he realised was 'me and mine'. Therefore, his intense prayer to Ram was: "Men are deluded when they declare, 'I do this, I do that. This is mine, that is mine'. All, O Ram, is Thine, and all things are done by Thee alone. Thy slave's one prayer to Thee is to take him under Thy complete guidance and remove his 'I'-ness."

Experiencing The Presence Of God

The timely Mantra initiation provided by Ram through his father, an evolved soul, hastened Vittal Rao's progress. Thereafter, chanting of the Mantra became the mainstay of his Sadhana because it enabled him to feel the presence of God.

Periodical Evaluation

To ensure that the Sadhana was yielding the intended results and to see whether the mind-space was being occupied more and more by God-thought, he was also evaluating himself periodically. He observed that "Whilst desires for the enjoyment of worldly things were fast falling off, the consideration of 'me and mine' was also wearing out. The sense of possession and relationship was vanishing. All thought, all mind, all heart, all soul was concentrated on Ram, Ram covering up and absorbing everything."

Renunciation And Itinerant Life

Ram lifted Vittal Rao out of the narrow pond of a worldly life and threw him into the extensive ocean of a Universal Life by making him think in the following strain: "O Ram, when Thy slave finds Thee at once so powerful and so loving, and that he who trusts Thee can be sure of true peace and happiness, why should he not throw himself entirely on Thy mercy,

which can only be possible by giving up everything he called ‘mine’? Thou art all in all to Thy slave. Thou art the sole Protector in the world...” A hazy desire to renounce all and wander over the earth in the garb of a mendicant — in quest of Ram — wafted over his mind. At Srirangam, as willed by Ram, he took Sannyas and assumed the name Ramdas — the servant of Ram!

Thus, started the saga of the transformation from Vittal Rao, the individual, to Swami Ramdas, the enlightened Mahatma. Ram’s reason for prompting Swami Ramdas to venture out was to transform his intellectual knowledge of Ram’s presence everywhere into an experiential knowledge.

Ram’s Love And Test

Swami Ramdas was well aware that it was Ram’s grace leading him along the way. He said: “The great change came over Ramdas in 1922 with his life of renunciation, not as a result of his own effort or initiative, but by the power, Will and grace of God.”

All through his travels, Ram showered his loving care and protection on Swami Ramdas. To quote Beloved Papa’s words would alone fully describe Ram’s love and powers of protection: “O Ram,

how kind of Thee! When Thou art out to show Thy fondness and love for Thy slave, Thou shameth the very human mother who gave birth to Ramdas' body. Such is Thy unlimited love.”

Not only was Ram the most loving and protecting mother to Swami Ramdas, He was also the Guiding Force for all his actions and a great task master. He, therefore, repeatedly tested him. Swami Ramdas constantly had to be vigilant as: “Ram's tests are at all times coming unawares. One should always be prepared for them and face all vicissitudes calmly and in complete resignation to His will. Then there is no sorrow, no disappointment, no fear of any kind.”

Fruition Of Life

When Swami Ramdas returned to Mangalore after wandering in India for a year, he stayed at the Kadri Cave in Mangalore. One night he sat in meditation, within a very short time he was immersed in the ocean of bliss and was lost. For three hours or so, he sat like a statue, absorbed in the Divine, one with the Supreme Consciousness.

Beloved Papa said: “God was busy with His own handiwork, changing everything about Ramdas. Ramdas knew after a few years that he was reborn.”



TRANSFORMATION COMES THROUGH GRACE

Devotee: How to achieve all that you have mentioned in the book IN QUEST OF GOD?
Papa: The simple answer is that it all happened by God's grace. It is God's grace that came to him and transformed him. That alone produced the miracle. Our effort is useless. His grace must come to us. Then, things happen as they should happen for our uplift and for our ultimate illumination and realization. It is not due to our merit. We can turn our mind towards God only if and when He wills.

We must contact His devotees and saints. That will quicken our aspiration for Him. So it is emphasised that the primary thing needed for an aspirant is the contact of a God-realized soul. Grace can flow to us through saints. What we have to do is only to pray for His grace. That is all we can do, and the rest must be done for us by God. Even the prayer we offer is because He makes us pray, but we do not know this at first. Later on we come to know that we do everything, even praying, by His grace. Otherwise, we have no thoughts or words to pray. The devotee says, "O God! You have put the words on my tongue for this prayer."

POINTS TO LOOK FOR WHILE READING IN QUEST OF GOD



oing through the book, IN QUEST OF GOD, is a deep learning experience. It is not meant to be an academic pursuit or a cerebral exercise; it is our response to Beloved Papa's ardent call: "Be God, lead others to God".

A few points have been drawn up to aid the readers undertaking the study of the book for their quest of God. These indicate what one needs to look for while taking up the reading:

1. Understanding the Great Void — Ram — God.
2. TRUST Him!
3. Surrender.
4. Universal Vision — the aim.
5. Meditate and chant His name.
6. Constant dialogue with Him.
7. Everything is His and nothing is ours.
8. Everything happens only by His will.
9. 'Me and mine' — the hurdle.
10. Periodical solitude.
11. Freedom from conditionings.
12. Universality of religion.
13. Saguna and Nirguna — aspects of the Truth.
14. Sacrifice.
15. Ram's tests come at all times, unawares.
16. Awareness of His grace.

PAPA — THE GUIDING STAR

(Soon after adopting Sannyas in 1999, Pujya Swami Muktanandaji undertook a Yatra to various places in India. At times, he also retraced the steps that Beloved Papa had taken during his itinerant life. The details of this Yatra were serialised in THE VISION. At the behest of several devotees, this column is being reintroduced).

It is an accepted convention that soon after taking to the order of Sannyas, Sadhakas undertake a Parivrajaka Yatra to expose themselves in the open and to train their inner equipment to dwell on God-thought in all circumstances and get fixed more firmly in the goal — God-realisation. When once Sadhakas are outside the Ashram, they may find themselves among strangers and naturally they cannot expect the care, love and concern shown to them while in Ashram. Then how does the Sadhaka react? Is he in a position to see the finger of God in all events and individuals? Does he accept everything cheerfully, as willed by God? The experiences of the Sadhaka during such a Yatra would help him immensely in his spiritual progress.

Beloved Papa gave this child an inner prompting to undertake a Yatra to some of the holy places in India and he left the Ashram on the 18th August, 1999. An attempt is made to recapture the joy experienced by this child during his travels.

A close study of the life of Mahatmas reveals that though they subjected themselves to severe austerities and physical sufferings during the early part of their spiritual journey, they, out of their unbounded love, ensured that none of their followers were exposed to such hardships. In fact, the followers get the best of all facilities wherever they were taken. This was clearly evident in the way in which Beloved Papa organised the Yatra of this child.

This child had no clear idea of the places to be visited, how to reach those places, whom to meet, the duration of his stay in different places, etc. But as he progressed in his Yatra, it looked as though someone had gone well in advance to the places of his visit and arranged everything, beautifully. All through, this child was made to feel that the very purpose of his Yatra was to visit the places where holy men lived so as to intensely associate with their life and mission, to feel the love and warmth everywhere and to realise that total reliance on God brings freedom from all so-called tensions, worries and anxieties.

Beloved Papa had stated that during his early years he was much influenced by the life and teachings of Mahatma Gandhi, Lord Buddha, Lord Jesus and Lord Krishna. In this Yatra, He took this child to such places that would help to contemplate upon the life and teachings of these great personages, vis-à-vis their influence on Beloved Papa.

— **Swami Muktananda**

(To be continued...)



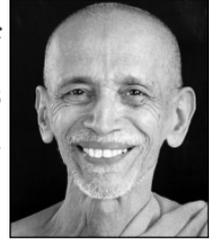
Ramdas by the grace of God, has found the never-fading joy within himself. What is more, he is blessed with the universal vision, a transcendent state in which he has the experience and consciousness that he is the very Truth itself — manifest, unmanifest and beyond. This inexpressible state was attained when the light of Divine knowledge illumined and dazzled his soul. The light came through Bhakti, Vairagya and Satsang.

— **Swami Ramdas**

ONE-POINTED ASPIRATION FOR GOD

By Swami Chidananda

Worshipful homage unto the Great Reality, the Brahman of the Upanishads, That which is experienced by sages and seers of self-discipline, purity, intense aspiration, perseverance and determination.



Those who give that Reality the greatest of all values, who regard It as the supreme value, who give It top priority, the central place in their life, qualify for the attainment of that Great Reality.

If that Great Reality counts as number two in one's sense of valuation, then long shall one have to wait. If It is one among many goals, if It does not occupy the central place in one's scheme of life, then one has to wait long. Making that Great Reality the goal of one's life to the exclusion of all other lesser goals — thus indeed do they describe the nature of true aspiration. Ekagrata (one-pointedness), Ananyata (single-mindedness), Avyabhicharini (total dedication) are words used in connection with aspiration and devotion.

Gurudev, during his Sadhana days, embodied

all these hallmarks of an ideal Sadhaka and seeker to the highest possible degree — total dedication to the ideal of God-realisation, one-pointed devotion to Sadhana, and absorption in that great struggle — setting aside all other considerations, making this his sole goal, and wholeheartedly striving for it with all his heart and mind. Day and night he lived for that great attainment. Therefore, the attainment was his. All the great ones manifested in their lives, in their inner spiritual life and struggle, this total dedication.

This we must learn from them, receive and absorb from them. We must try diligently, sincerely and earnestly to gradually come to a state where no other consideration weighs more with us than God, to a state where God fills our entire life — He becomes the most important thing. This indeed is the one common factor in the lives of all the great ones.

This is the one thing worth asking for. We worship God, we try to please Him by various means so that He may make our lives comfortable, prosperous, successful, happy, long-lived. But seldom does anyone ask Him for devotion and devotion alone, one-pointed aspiration for Him and Him alone. Everyone wants things created by God, but very few

indeed want the Creator and the Creator alone, Him and Him alone.

“Not what You have created, O Lord. I aspire for Thee and Thee alone.” In this way, those who brush aside all created things as being of little worth and value and set their heart on the One who is the source and origin of all things, they attain Him. “Mameva Ye Prapadyante Mayametam Taranti Te (Those who take refuge in Me alone cross over this illusion.”

This is a world of things. You should ask for that Being who is beyond all things — the Thing-in-Itself. If you ask for lesser things, you get lesser things. He gives immediately what you aspire for. Whatever you ask, that is given. So we have to be careful about what we ask of God because He is a wish-yielding tree.

“Take away all desire from my heart, O Lord. May I not want anything except Thee and Thee alone.” This is what one should ask from the Supreme Being.

May you all aspire for That, ask for That, earnestly long for That, and pray for That. May you all attain That in this very life, and become forever blessed!”

Source: Awake! Realise Your Divinity



DEAR CHILDREN

The Devil And The Pole



A man wanted to propitiate a devil to make it do whatever he wanted. So he did the necessary Sadhana to that end and, by the power of some Mantra, he was able to summon the devil before him. The devil said that it would obey his commands, but on one condition, “If at any time you do not give me work, I will devour you. You must keep me engaged all the twenty-four hours.” The man agreed. He immediately gave an order to build a palace for him. To his great wonder, the palace was built in no time. Then he gave an order for a long road to be made ready. That work was also executed in a short time. Next minute, the devil was standing before him, asking for more work. He had no time even to think. He gave an order to build a big town. It was ready within ten minutes. Now the man was perplexed and afraid. He did not know what new orders to give. If he did not give any work, he would be eaten by the devil. He hastened to a holy man and asked for advice. The holy man suggested that he might get a bamboo pole, plant it in the ground and ask the devil to climb it up and down until further orders. He did so and the devil was bound to carry

out the order. This meant no rest whatever for the devil. Finally, it got disgusted and ran away.

Now, in your case, Ram Mantra is the pole and the ego is the devil that teases you. Ask him to go up and down the pole repeatedly and he will soon get tired and run away. Ram Nam is given to you in order to subdue the ego. The ego must be made to disappear by its own endeavour.

Source: Stories As Told By Swami Ramdas



EPISTLES OF SWAMI RAMDAS

Beloved Ram,
Your kind and loving letter, with the Kanarese manuscript of IN QUEST OF GOD has been received. Ramdas cursorily looked through some portions. You have been successful in conveying the spirit of the original into the translation...

Believe always that you are only an instrument in the Divine hands. If you do so, there will be no reason left for you to think that you have any drawbacks. The pure Divine Shakti will then be known as flowing through you, manifesting as your actions in every field of work.

Ramdas

IN MEMORIAM

- Sri VS Ramanan (aged 86), the former president of Sri Ramanasramam, attained the holy feet of the Lord on the 21st of July 2020.
- Justice TS Arunachalm (aged 86), the former Chief Justice of the Madras High Court and President of Yogi Ramsuratkumar Ashram at Thiruvannamalai, also dropped his mortal coil on the 22nd of July 2020.
- Sri Shivcharan Gupta (aged 74) of the Sagarlal Gupta family, a veteran devotee of the Ashram from Hyderabad, was also called by Beloved Papa on the 12th July 2020.

All members of Sagarlal Gupta family have been deeply devoted to Beloved Papa, Pujya Mataji and Pujya Swamiji since the early 1950s. They have also been closely associating with the Ashram activities ever since.

We pray for Beloved Papa's blessings on the dear departed souls for eternal rest and peace at HIS lotus feet.



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 July is 180 crores.

The grand total of the Japa done so far in this round now stands at 8376 crores.



117TH JAYANTI OF PUJYA MATAJI KRISHNABAI

Pujya Mataji Krishnabai's 117th Jayanti will be celebrated on the 17th of this month. On this sacred occasion, THE VISION offers its humble homage to Pujya Mataji with a prayer to bless all devotee with intensity to translate the spiritual values in thier daily life.

LIST OF PUBLICATIONS IN ENGLISH

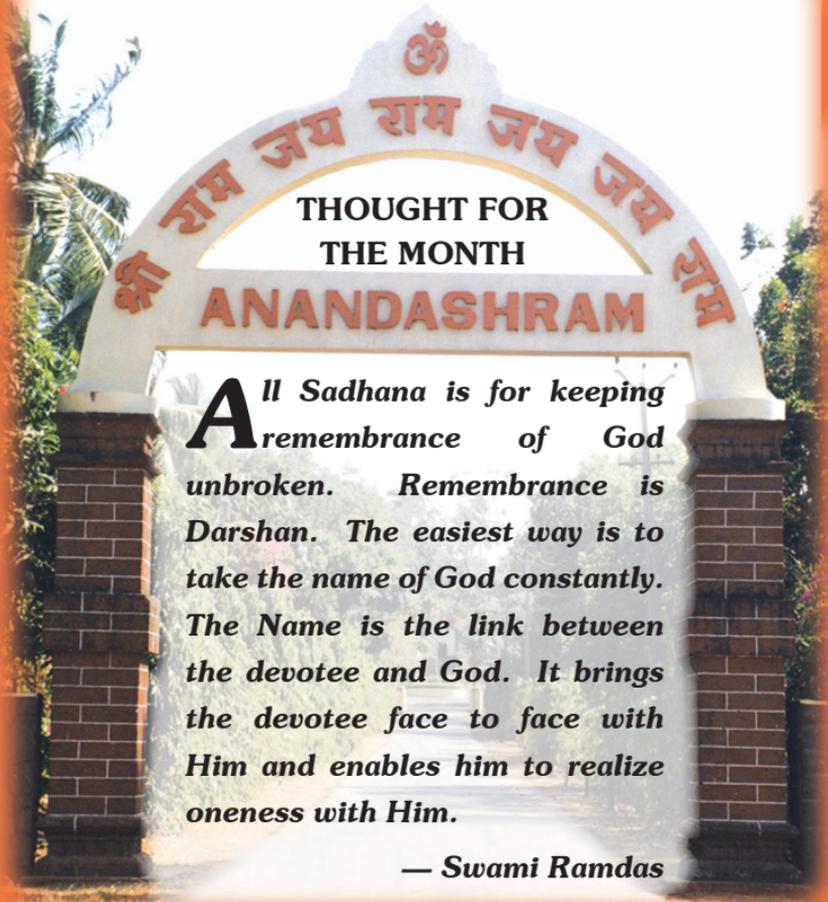
Sr.	Book Title	Price (Rs.)
1	Ashram Seva	30
2	At the Feet of God	85
3	Call of the Devotee	130
4	Dive Deep and Soar High	120
5	Gita Sandesh	110
6	Glimpses of Divine Vision	60
7	God Experience, Vols. 1 & 2 (Set)	240
8	Gospel Of Swami Ramdas, Vols. 1 to 3 (Set)	750
9	Guru's Grace	150
10	Hints to Aspirants	100
11	In Quest of God	150
12	In the Vision of God	285
13	Krishnabai	80
14	Lectures of Swami Ramdas, Vols. 1 to 5 (Set)	1100
15	Letters of Swami Ramdas, Vols. 1 & 2 (Set)	240
16	Mundane to Spiritual	100
17	Passage to Divinity	120
18	Pathless Path	50
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21	Religion — Its Universality	50
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23	Sayings of Swami Ramdas	60
24	Srimad Bhagavatam	380
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27	Swami Satchidananda	50
28	Talks of Swami Ramdas	130
29	The Divine Life, Vols. 1 & 2 (Set)	380
30	The Mother of All	60
31	The Silent Sage	60
32	Thus Speaks Ramdas	60
35	Viswamata Krishnabai	70
36	With My Master	90
37	With the Divine Mother, Vols. 1 to 3 (Set)	540
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