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The Vision

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



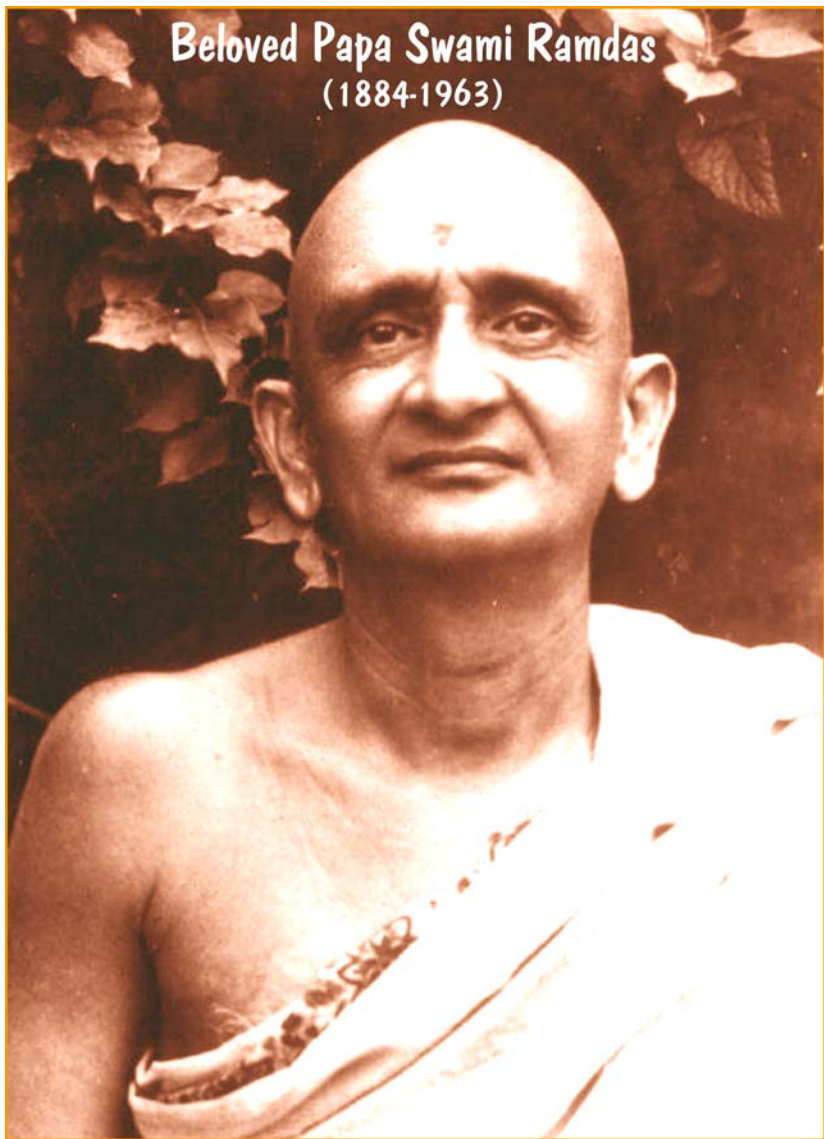
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Beloved Papa Swami Ramdas
(1884-1963)



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

PRAYER HEARD

“GOD! I seek not
 Name, fame and glory;
 May Thy grace fill me
 With purity and peace.
 Make me conscious of Thee
 As my immortal Self;
 My life be an oblation
 At the altar of Thy feet.
 O Mother and Master Divine!
 Nothing more than this I pray.”
 Thus I prayed; and God,
 The Lover of His devotee,
 The Saviour of the fallen,
 The Protector of the weak,
 Mercy and kindness incarnate,
 Said, Amen!
 And made me His child!

- Swami Ramdas

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THE VISION

A Monthly Magazine

Anandashram

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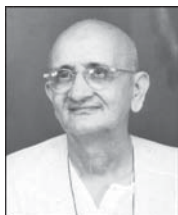
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THE AIM OF PRAYER

By Swami Ramdas

Through prayer and meditation you are united with God in the silence of His spirit and also in the supreme power of His love. God-contact purifies your heart and reveals His full glory within you – you are flooded with His light, peace and joy. God dwells in all beings and creatures.



Prayer and meditation open up a channel of communication with the Void so that His grace may fill you and transform your life into His very image. Now your being is vibrant with divine life and ecstasy. You radiate divine light and peace. You become a vehicle through whom God works spontaneously for the good of the world. Verily, you are the very expression of God – God who is absolute goodness, love and peace. To be in tune with Him is to become like Him.

Human life is rich with the gifts which God has poured into it, for God Himself is at the source of all lives in the world. When the human soul merges in the cosmic soul – God, the disturbances in the external field of movement and activity are automatically controlled and harmonised. It is the inner equanimity

that makes for a state of external calmness and serenity.

Humanity is now in the clutches of a terrible war because it has failed to recognise the existence and supremacy of God who has created the worlds and all creatures in it. To deny Him and ignore your union and oneness with Him is to set free destructive forces in nature that cause havoc and misery in the world. As you enter more and more in the realm of God, as your life gets more and more illumined by the light of God, as your heart is filled more and more with divine love and joy, you contribute towards a swift evolution of mankind to the attainment of beneficent, united and elevating world-order and fellowship. The warring tendencies in man are thus subdued and the inherent virtues of love and kindness now revealing in human nature bring peace and goodwill on earth.

It is truly said by a Great One, "Individual peace paves the way to universal peace"

Many of us wish that the world should become a place where all men may live with each other, like the loving members of the same family in an atmosphere of tranquillity. Man is selfish and seeks earthly power and glory by throwing the lives of his fellowmen into

pain and agony because he has not found inner peace and happiness through communion with the infinite peace and joy – God.

The present world turmoil is teaching a great lesson to mankind. It is man's failure to tune his life with God that has been responsible for this state. Man is solely occupied with the pleasures of the senses. Your task is, therefore, through direct communion with God, and the resultant experience of your spiritual unity and identity with Him, to transmit His radiance to others and awaken them to the awareness of world-consolidating force – God.

When the sun shines it simply sheds its radiance and the world is bright with its light. So also when the sun of divinity shines within you, you manifest naturally His powers in all their beauty and benevolence.

Prayer is not begging for earthly things for your own personal and petty satisfaction. Meditation is not for gaining any selfish ends. The aim is to elevate your soul so that it may be purified and become conscious of its eternal oneness with the divine spirit and power. True friendship amongst human beings can be based only upon the realisation of this unity of all life. So if we really aspire to see the world freed from the chaos produced by the destructive conflicts

and wars, let us give up the unnatural differences amongst us born of ignorance, and through the knowledge of the Spirit bind ourselves together by ties of immortal Love and thereby bring about peace and goodwill in the world. May we become the torch bearers of divine light, power and peace. May God's grace grant all the vision of Truth. May the blessings of the Almighty shower in abundance on mankind.

BELOVED PAPA SWAMI RAMDAS ANSWERS

Question: Sometimes in life we do not know what to do when we feel we are responsible for the mistakes some make on the spiritual path. We could have prevented them, but they do not listen to us. In such cases is it better to let them have the negative experiences with life than our interfering?



Papa: When Ramdas was once climbing up the Himalayas, a girl was coming down a slope on her return journey. She ran so fast that she lost control over herself and went near the precipice and was about to topple down the precipice and be killed. Ramdas was there at that critical time, but he could not do anything to help her. Ramdas prayed to God :

“O God, save the girl!” She was saved! That is all we can do. This experience is given in his book “IN QUEST OF GOD”. By God’s grace and power everything is possible, if our prayers are really sincere.

We see daily so many are falling into temptations and so many are led into evil ways of life. What can we do? Can we persuade them not to do such things? Will they pay heed to our advice? Generally they don’t. So the only thing we can do is to purify our heart and send waves of earnest love and goodwill to them. Before we can do good to others by our goodwill, let us first pray for ourselves and purify our heart and then become vehicles in the hands of God for His power to work through us for the uplift of others. So far as physical help is concerned, we cannot sometimes do much to prevent another’s fall, but spiritual help is still more difficult to render. Spiritual help is the best help.

But in the name of spirituality and religion so many evils are done. This is really deplorable. If we are truly on the path that leads us to God, we must become morally and spiritually pure. On the other hand, we get into so many entanglements and say that we do so in the name of spirituality or religion. Spirituality and religion do not admit of our leading an erratic and immoral life. We

must grow from purity to purity until we are fully illumined with the light, love and peace of God. This is the ultimate realisation, and we must have this alone in view and work up to the attainment of that supreme goal. All else is only talk and of no avail. We may call ourselves followers of this religion or that, this group or that, and as disciples of this person or that. But this will not do. What really counts is spiritual advancement based upon our inner purity and real transformation within us. Our outer life must bear out the fact of our highest spiritual experience. Our outer life must wear itself out in the service of God. This is the test by which we can know where we stand – not by what we call ourselves, but by what we really are.

WORDS OF PUJYA MATAJI KRISHNABAI

To obtain anything, we should pray to Papa. If we pray to Him for material things, He grants us material things. If we pray to Him to grant us Himself, He grants that prayer too. But, such a prayer should be accompanied by Guru Dhyana, Nam and Seva. Let us at least sow this seed of aspiration in this life so that, at least in some future life, this seed will sprout and grow as you water it with more and more Ram Nam, and finally take you to Papa.



Ram Nam chanted by children has so much power. Even if they give exaggerated figures of Japa done by them, I attach more importance to their Ram Nam than to that of the grown-ups. When chanting Ram Nam, children do so with all faith and concentration while the grown-ups have their minds running in different directions. Beloved Papa, therefore, hearkens to children's prayers.

Let your thoughts always dwell on the Guru who is seated in your heart – who at the same time pervades and transcends everything. If any other thought arises in your mind, identify it with the Guru within. Let your prayer always be to realise – to become one with the Guru. Let your tongue constantly repeat Ram Nam. Let your eyes behold the Guru everywhere. Let your hands do every work as an offering to the Guru.

WORDS OF PUJYA SWAMI SATCHIDANANDA

(On 12th of November 2015, we celebrate Pujya Swamiji's 95th Jayanti Day. Pujya Swamiji was the personification of love, compassion, humility and Guru-Seva. May this day



be instrumental in reminding us of these noble ideals that he epitomised, and may he bless us to live up to the teachings of our Guru and thus make our lives blessed.)

Question: Should prayers be silent or spoken aloud?

Swamiji: It is better if prayers are done silently and nobody knows about them. Some may appreciate it, and at the same time, many may laugh. When they laugh, you may be affected. So, let nobody know anything about your views on God or about your spiritual practices. Whatever opinions others may hold, you must be firm in the faith that prayers are absolutely necessary for a happy and peaceful life, here and hereafter. You have that faith. So, don't be carried away by what others say.

Question: What is the benefit of practising God-remembrance constantly?

Swamiji: By practising to remember Him constantly, in all conditions and circumstances, you will be able to experience His presence even when you are in a state of confusion. When everything appears to be dark, you will be able to see a streak of light, which will remind you of Ram's all-pervading Existence and give you the strength to get over the problems. One thing is sure, if we cling on to His Name, He will never let us down.

THE SCIENCE AND ART OF PRAYER

By Paramahansa Yogananda



The word prayer smacks of beggary. We are the children of God. He made us in His image. Why should we beg? The word prayer is antiquated and carries with it the consciousness of supplication. The psychology of supplication consists of doubt as to whether the Father will grant what we ask. We, being the children of the Almighty Father, can claim everything, which He possesses, namely, wisdom, immortality, happiness and abundance. The word “prayer” should be changed to “loving demand”. The Father made us His children and we have chosen to be beggars. We must destroy our deficiencies and become acknowledged as His children, as Jesus was. To do that, we must stop being prodigal children and retrace our steps homeward from the misery-making mainland of matter. We live in hope and die either with unfulfilled hope or broken-hearted. Very seldom does real complete happiness dawn on the horizon of our lives. We must consider the steps by which we can retrace our steps Godward.

The popular system of prayer is ineffective for the

most part because we do not mean business with God. When in trouble, people pray in the churches and temples, repeating the Lord's prayer loudly together, while in the background of their minds they are thinking of dinner or something else equally as distracting. God, the Secret Knower of our thoughts, knows what selfish desires we have in our innermost mind; so He seldom manifests Himself. While the demons of sensations and thoughts dance in the temples of body and mind, it is difficult to recognize God, who remains hidden behind the veil of silence within.

The popular method of prayer does not reveal the psychology and art of prayer. Ordinary prayer consists of addressing our desires half in belief and half in doubt to an unknown God. If prayers are answered, a superstitious trust in God may result; if they are ineffective, distrust may follow.

Effective prayer, therefore, must be scientific and definite in performance and must give intelligent understanding of all its factors. All those who want to demonstrate the scientific nature of prayer must first be sure that there is a God to pray to. How can this be known? First by accepting the testimony of great souls, such as Jesus, Krishna, Swami Sankara, Babaji

and so on, who said that they found God, talked with Him and solved the riddle of life after listening to the Truth from the sacred, divine lips.

They have said that God responds to law. They experienced this response and have said that all people who conform to the law can test and experience it for themselves. Physical laws have to be interpreted by the physical senses and judged by the understanding. Divine laws have to be comprehended by concentration, meditation and intuition.

1. Solitude is the price of God-contact.
2. Knowledge of the laws of tuning the body, mind and soul-radios to contact God is necessary.
3. Since God is also above law, devotion is necessary to call His attention. The devotional call if sincere, deep and continuous, and if it is supplemented by sincere efforts at deep meditation, must bring Divine response. Devotional demand is greater than law, for it touches the heart of God and makes Him answer His naughty and good children alike. Law is based on mathematical precision, but devotion is based upon claiming God as our one true love, for did He not make us in His own likeness? Law is exacting in its demand, while

love causes God to surrender Himself to the devotee. God can never hide from the person who exercises devotion, love, the law of meditation and the Soul-Call.

4. Continuous personal zeal must be put forth. Whether God seems to respond or not, one must never cease loving. The beginner in devotion must not be discouraged if God does not respond to His immediate intense demands. God never fails to listen to all Soul-Calls, but He does not always respond in the way that we want Him to. He has His own mysterious ways. Besides, He consciously responds only when He is sure that the devotee wants Him and Him alone. That is why some saints have been tested with disease or intense poverty or temptation and when found to prefer God to health, life, abundance or temptation, then God came. If one persists long enough in seeking, one will surely find God at the end of the trail. Saints are prodigal children of God, temporary sinners, who do not give up trying to be good, so as to get back to God!

You must not be discouraged because of your ill-health or poverty or moral weakness. Remember, sin is

only a temporary graft, and that in reality you are eternally a Son of God. Even if the world condemns you and casts you away, remember that God will ever seek to find you and to bring you back home. Never mind if you cannot see Him or hear His knock at the gate of your heart. For a long time you have been hiding from Him and running away in the marsh of the senses. It is the noise of your own rowdy passions and of the flight of your heavy footsteps in the material world which has made you unable to hear His call within. Stop, be calm, pray steadfastly and out of the sullen silence will loom forth the Divine Presence.

Your mental microphone has been broken by the hammers of restlessness, used by your noisy passions. That mind microphone must be repaired by deep silence or by the practice of the technique of concentration and physical discipline preceding your prayer of loving demand. When you feel calm, your mind-microphone is repaired and then it is time to broadcast your first and foremost loving demand: "Father, make me realize again that Thou and I are One".

Do not jump up after one or two mental broadcasts, but with continuous personal zeal keep on consciously with the ever-increasing hunger of your

heart, incessantly, mentally uttering the above affirmation for the lost unity with God, until you feel the ever-increasing thrill of joy bursting around your heart and your whole body. This increasing joy after meditation is the only proof that God has answered through the devotion-tuned radio of your heart. The longer and deeper you meditate and affirm, the deeper will you feel and be conscious of the ever-increasing joy in your heart. Then you will know without doubt that there is a God and that He is ever-existing, ever-conscious, omnipresent, ever-new joy. Then demand: "Father, now today, all day, all tomorrows, every instant, in sleep, in wakefulness, in life, in death, in this world and in the beyond, remain with me as the consciously responding Joy of my heart."

After that, ask if you wish, for healing of the fleeting flesh or ask for passing prosperity or for anything that you think with wisdom that you should have, but never forget to request, all the time: "Father, be Thou mine always, as Thou hast been, and may Thy love be the only King reigning on the throne of all my ambitions and desires. May I be able to make a fitting temple for Thee in every heart,"

Source: THE VISION, January 1968

ME TO WE

“God’s creation is there before you just as you have the light from the sun. It is the very nature of God to reveal Himself as the entire cosmos. If you look at the world from its source which is God you cannot but visualize all activities of creatures and things in nature as the lila of the Lord.” – Swami Ramdas

In line with the above words of Beloved Papa, VITAL, a movement, was initiated by Anandashram to motivate teachers to integrate Constitutional Values, which stand for ‘me’ to ‘we’, into academics.

Class: 9, **Subject:** Social Studies, **Chapter:** Language, Art and Philosophy

Text Content: Man started to think about the origin and meaning of life. He observed nature.

Example: As children, Beatrix and Bertram had numerous small animals as pets which they observed closely and drew endlessly. Beatrix developed a love for nature which was the subject of her paintings from an early age and became an author, illustrator, natural scientist and conservationist best known for her imaginative children’s books featuring animals.

Value Co-related: Quest for knowledge, sacrifice

For more details contact: vital4education@gmail.com

DEAR CHILDREN

Dr Mark, a well-known cancer specialist, was once on his way to an important conference where he was going to be granted an award in the field of medical research.

He was very excited about the conference and was desperate to reach as soon as possible. He had worked long and hard on his research and felt his efforts deserved the award he was about to obtain.

However, two hours after the plane took off, it made an emergency landing at the nearest airport due to some technical snag. Afraid that he wouldn't make it in time for the conference, Dr. Mark immediately went to the reception and found that the next flight to his destination was after ten hours. The receptionist suggested to him, to rent a car and drive himself down to the conference city which was only four hours away. Having no other choice, he agreed to the idea despite his hatred for driving long distances.

Dr Mark rented a car and started his journey. However, soon after he left, the weather suddenly changed and a heavy storm began. The heavy rain

made it very difficult for him to see and he missed a turn he was supposed to take.

After two hours of driving, he was convinced he was lost. Driving in the heavy rain on a deserted road, feeling hungry and tired, he frantically began to look for any sign of civilization. After some time, he finally came across a small house. Desperate, he got out of the car and knocked on the door. A poor beautiful lady opened the door. He explained the matter and asked her if he could use her telephone. However, the lady told him that she didn't have a phone or any electronic gadget but told the doctor to come inside and wait till the weather improved.

Hungry, wet and exhausted, the doctor accepted her kind offer and walked in. The lady gave him hot tea and something to eat. The lady told him that he could join her for prayer if he liked. But, Dr Mark smiled and said that he believed in hard work only and told her to continue with her prayers.

Sitting at the table and sipping the tea, the doctor watched the woman in the dim light of candles as she prayed next to what appeared to be a small baby crib.

Every time she finished a prayer, she would start

another one. Feeling that the woman might be in need of help, the doctor seized the opportunity to speak as soon as she finished her prayers. The doctor asked her what exactly she wanted from God and enquired if she thought God would ever listen to her prayers. He further asked about the baby in the crib for whom she was apparently praying. The lady gave a sad smile and said that the child in the crib was her son who was suffering from a rare type of cancer and there was only one Dr Mark who could cure him but she didn't have the money to afford his fee and moreover Dr Mark lived in another far away town. She said that God had not answered her prayer so far but said that God would create some way out one day and added that she would not allow her fears to overcome her faith.

Stunned and speechless Dr Mark was in tears which were rolling down his cheeks. He whispered, "God is great", and recollected the sequence of events: the malfunction in the plane forcing it to land in the nearby town, a thunderstorm which made him lose his way; and all of this happened because God did not just answer her prayer but also gave him a chance to come out of his materialistic world and give some time to the poor hapless people who have nothing but are rich in prayers.

Always be prepared to do what God has prepared you for. There are no accidents in life!

AMERICAN INDIAN PRAYER

By Swami Narayani

O great Spirit

Whose voice I hear in the winds and
whose breath gives life to all the world,
Hear me! I am small and weak, I need
your strength and wisdom.



Let me walk in beauty and make my eyes ever behold
the red and purple sunset.

Make my hands respect the things you have made and
my ears sharp to hear your voice.

Make me wise, so that I may understand the things
You have taught me.

Let me learn the lessons you have hidden in every leaf
and rock.

I seek strength, not to be greater than my brother,
but to fight my greatest enemy - my self.

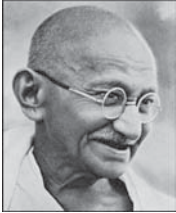
Make me always ready to come to you with clean
hands and straight eyes;

That when life fades, as the setting sun, my spirit
may come to you without shame.

Source: Within And Beyond

WHAT IS PRAYER?

By Mahatma Gandhi



A medical graduate asks: What is the best form of prayer? How much time should be spent at it? In my opinion to do justice is the best form of prayer and one who is sincere about doing justice to all does not need to do any more praying. Some people spend a long time over Sandhya and 95% of them do not understand the meaning of what they say. In my opinion prayer should be said in one's mother tongue. It alone can affect the soul best. I would say that a sincere prayer for one minute is enough. It should suffice to promise God not to sin.

Gandhiji: Prayer means asking God for something in a reverential attitude. But the word is used also to denote any devotional act. Worship is a better term to use for what the correspondent has in mind. But definition apart, what is it that millions of Hindus, Mussalmans, Christians and Jews and others do every day during the time set apart for the adoration of the Maker? It seems to me that it is a yearning of the heart to be one with the Maker, an invocation for His blessing. It is in this case the attitude that matters,

not words uttered or muttered. And often the association of words that have been handed down from ancient times has an effect which in their rendering into one's mother tongue they will lose altogether. Thus the Gayatri translated and recited in, say, Gujarati, will not have the same effect as the original. The utterance of the word "Rama" will instantaneously affect millions of Hindus, while the word "God", although they may understand the meaning, will leave them untouched. Words after all acquire a power by long usage and sacredness associated with their use. There is much therefore to be said for the retention of the old Sanskrit formulae for the most prevalent mantra or verses. That the meaning of them should be properly understood goes without saying.

There can be no fixed rule laid down as to the time these devotional acts should take. It depends upon individual temperament. These are precious moments in one's daily life. The exercises are intended to sober and humble us and enable us to realize that nothing happens without His will and that we are but "clay in the hands of the potter". These are moments when one reviews one's immediate past, confesses one's weaknesses, asks for forgiveness and strength

to be and do better. One minute may be enough for some, twenty-four hours may be too little for others. For those who are filled with the presence of God in them, to labour is to pray. Their life is one continuous prayer or act of worship. For those others who act only to sin, to indulge themselves, and live for self, no time is too much. If they had patience and faith and the will to be pure, they would pray till they felt the definite purifying presence of God within them. For us ordinary mortals there must be a middle path between these two extremes. We are not so exalted as to be able to say that all our acts are a dedication nor perhaps are we so far gone as to be living purely for self. Hence have all religions set apart times for general devotion. Unfortunately these have nowadays become merely mechanical and formal, where they are not hypocritical. What is necessary therefore is the correct attitude to accompany these devotions.

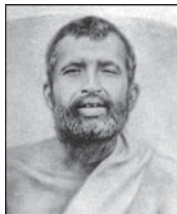
For definite personal prayer, in the sense of asking God for something, it should certainly be in one's own tongue. Nothing can be grander than that which makes us act justly towards everything that lives.

Source: <http://www.gandhi-manibhavan.org/eduresources/article14.htm>

EXCERPT FROM THE GOSPEL OF SRI RAMAKRISHNA
EFFICACY OF JAPA AND PRAYER

Devotee: “How can I develop love for God?”

Master: “Repeat His Name, and sins will disappear. Thus you will destroy lust, anger, the desire for creature comforts, and so on.”



Devotee: “How can I take delight in God’s Name?”

Master: “Pray to God with a yearning heart that you may take delight in His name. He will certainly fulfill your heart’s desire.

“‘Even for Thy holy name I have no taste.’ A typhoid patient has very little chance of recovery if he loses all taste for food; but his life need not be despaired of if he enjoys food even a little. That is why one should cultivate a taste for God’s Name. Any name will do - Durga, Krishna, or Siva. Then if, through the chanting of the name, one’s attachment to God grows day by day, and joy fills the soul, one has nothing to fear. The delirium will certainly disappear; the grace of God will certainly descend.

“‘As is a man’s feeling of love, so is his gain.’ Once two friends were going along the street when they saw some people listening to a reading of the

Bhagavata. ‘Come, friend’, said the one to the other. ‘Let us hear the sacred book.’ So saying he went in and sat down. The second man peeped in and went away. He entered a house of ill fame. But very soon he felt disgusted with the place. ‘Shame on me!’ he said to himself. ‘My friend has been listening to the sacred story of Hari and see where I am!’ But the friend who had been listening to the Bhagavata also became disgusted. ‘What a fool I am!’ he said. ‘I have been listening to this fellow’s blah-blah, and my friend is having a grand time.’ In course of time they both died. The messenger of Death came for the soul of the one who had listened to the Bhagavata and dragged it off to hell. The messenger of God came for the soul of the one who had been to the house of prostitution and led it up to heaven. Verily, the Lord looks into a man’s heart and does not judge him by what he does or where he lives. Krishna accepts a devotee’s inner feeling of love.”

THE UNIVERSAL PRAYER

By Swami Sivananda

O Adorable Lord of Mercy and Love!
Salutations and prostrations unto Thee.
Thou art Omnipresent, Omnipotent and Omniscient.
Thou art Existence-Consciousness-Bliss Absolute.

Thou art the Indweller of all beings.

Grant us an understanding heart,

Equal vision, balanced mind,

Faith, devotion and wisdom.

Grant us inner spiritual strength

To resist temptations and to control the mind.

Free us from egoism, lust, greed, hatred, anger and jealousy.

Fill our hearts with Divine virtues.

Let us behold Thee in all these names and forms.

Let us serve Thee in all these names and forms.

Let us ever remember Thee.

Let us ever sing Thy glories.

Let Thy Name be ever on our lips.

Let us abide in Thee for ever and ever.

EPISTLES OF SWAMI RAMDAS

Beloved Ram,

...To repeat God's name is to remember Him; and remembrance means consciousness of His presence within and everywhere about us. He is ever pure and glorious. He is the only Truth. You are ever united with Him - nay, in essence you and He are not different. Humility is a great virtue that helps to dissolve the ego.

When Hanuman was dispirited and thought it was

not in his power to take the leap to Lanka, a comrade awakened him to the sense of his prowess, which he had forgotten; and he could accomplish the apparently impossible task. So also, the immortal bliss and peace which is within us becomes revealed, when our heart is illumined by the light of knowledge. Saints help us to attain this. They constantly din into our ears what we really are. You are not a despicable worm, sinful and wretched. The Lord of the worlds has His throne in your heart – you are not only in tune with Him eternally but you are His very expression and form.

The object of prayer is to intensify our desire to attain God. When the longing has reached the necessary pitch, realisation comes. Repetition of His holy name gives strength and concentration to prayer. The bowman hits the mark when his mind is perfectly concentrated on his act - when the thought of the mark alone rules the mind.



**PARAM PUJYA SWAMI DAYANANDA SARASWATI
ATTAINS MAHASAMADHI**

In this great land of ours, the Almighty Lord of the Universe causes the birth of some rare flowers of

human life in the form of saints and sages, from time to time, whose sole object of existence is to shed all around them the sweet fragrance of Love and Service for the joy of the world. One such rare flower is H H Swami Dayanandaji Maharaj of Arsha Vidya Gurukulam.

Revered Swamiji attained Mahasamadhi on the 23rd of September in his Rishikesh Ashram.

Beloved Papa said, “The aim of a saint’s life is to spend all its energies - physical, mental and spiritual - for the welfare of humanity. The struggling and distressed souls call for his sympathy, goodwill and help. He is, by nature, all kindness, mercy and love. So, at every step, his life is poured out as a selfless dedication for the removal of pain and misery in the world, in whatsoever form they exist. Blessed are they who share in the saint’s acts of service”. Revered Swami Dayanandaji’s life was an epitome of what is described above.

The mission Pujya Swamiji had undertaken was two-fold: one to disseminate the priceless teachings contained in our Sastras that would help aspirants to expand from the individual to the universal through Arsha Vidya Gurukulams, and the other to actualize

the theme of adoring the Lord through the classic project named 'AIM for SEVA' by reaching out to His innumerable forms appearing as the needy and the suffering. Pujya Swamiji's efforts to bring together all the ancient institutions of Dharmic Sampradayas of India under the banner of ACHARYA SABHA, facilitating interaction among them so as to develop closeness, would go a long way in fortifying 'Spiritual India'. Such a get together would surely help the said institutions to think in terms of taking the sublime teachings of both creativity and humaneness to a wider circle.

We offer our mental Sashtang Pranams to Pujya Swamiji who is now in the form of remembrance and pray for his blessings on all for the revival of our glorious culture for which Swamiji made untiring efforts. We are sure that the life and mission of Pujya Swamiji will continue to inspire innumerable aspirants in their Sadhana.

IN MEMORIAM

- ◆ Sri K A Narayanaswamy (aged 79), an ardent devotee from Chennai, was called by Beloved Papa on 31st August 2015. He was hospitalised after

sudden cardiac arrest on the 29th of August. Sri Narayanaswamy was actively involved in the Chennai Samiti activities.

- ◆ Smt Sheela Trikannad (aged 70), the granddaughter-in-law of Beloved Papa and wife of the late Sri Premanand Trikannad, was also called by Beloved Papa on the 1st of October. Though she had been ailing from multiple health problems, she had resigned herself to the supreme will of Beloved Papa and finally passed away at her residence in Pune.

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

ANANDASHRAM NEWS

15,500-CRORE NAMA JAPA YAGNA FOR WORLD PEACE: The total Japa received in the second round of the 15500-Crore Nama Japa Yagna For World Peace in the month of August 2015 is 250 crores. The grand total of the Japa done so far now stands at 11276 crores.

PUJYA SWAMI MUKTANANDAJI TO OBSERVE MOUNA: Pujya Swamiji plans to observe mouna and seclusion from January to March 2016. However, he will spend an hour with the devotees every day.

FROM THE EDITOR

In the life of everyone who has faith in God, prayer plays a very significant role. Especially when we are confronted with various hurdles in moving forward towards the goal set by us, we invoke the blessings of the almighty Lord of the universe to step in and extend the hand of His support to remove those hurdles. Proportionate to the intensity of the prayer, our prayers are answered. But when we cross over the problem, unfortunately we forget that it was not because of our expertise we got relief but because we surrendered to Him. Again we are back to the dominance of sense of individuality.

So prayer is intended to remind us that it is He who is behind everything and therefore prayer is a constant effort to remember this aspect. However, prayer to become effective, needs faith and devotion. Gandhiji says that in prayer, it is better to have a heart without words than words without a heart.

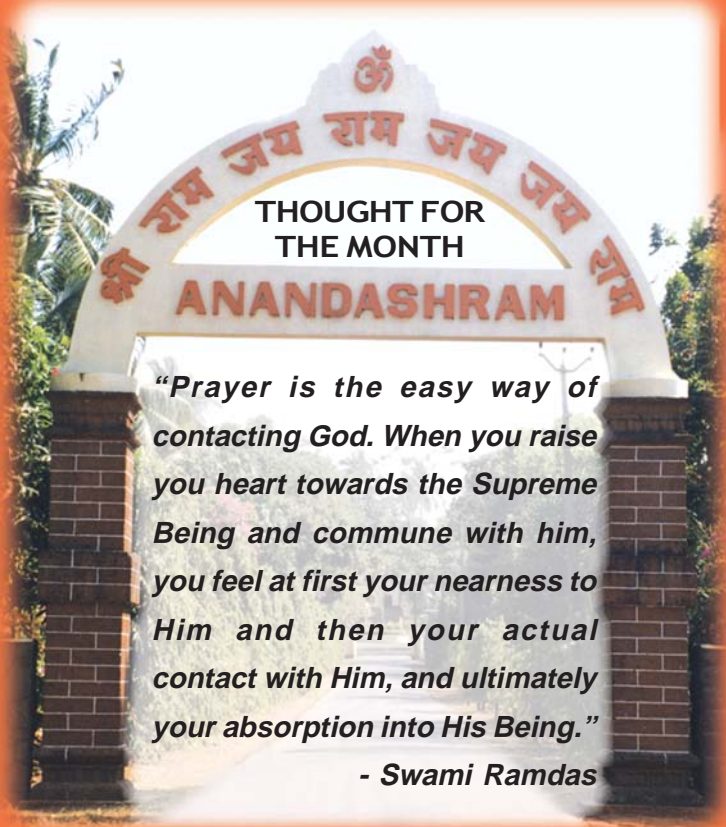
This month's issue of THE VISION contains words of Mahatmas on the different aspects of prayer. May all be able to dwell on these thoughts and learn to make their prayers more effective.

— **MUKTANANDA**

LIST OF ASHRAM PUBLICATIONS

ENGLISH Arati Book At the Feet of God Call of the Devotee * Cherished Memories Dive Deep Soar High * Gospel of Swami Ramdas I & II * Gita Sandesh Glimpses of Divine Vision God Experience I & II Set Guru's Grace Hanuman Chalisa Hints to Aspirants In Quest of God In the Vision of God Krishnabai Mundane to Spiritual Passage to Divinity * Poems Points to Ponder Ramdas Speaks I*, II* to V Set Shraddhanjali Stories as told by Ramdas Swami Ramdas on Himself Swami Ramdas' Talks * Swami Satchidananda * The Divine Life I & II * Set The Pathless Path * With my Master The Sayings of Ramdas Thus Speaks Ramdas Vishwamata Krishnabai World is God * With Divine Mother I to III Set World is God * Srimad Bhagavata * GUJARATI Glimpses of Divine Vision * In Quest of God	50 50 25 25 25 30 115 55 35 60 120 30 100 50 30 225 60 25 25 45 25 20 35 85 35	In The Cave * In the Vision of God Swami Satchidananda The Sayings of Ramdas * Thus Speaks Ramdas World is God HINDI At the Feet of God Gita Sandesh Guru's Grace In Quest of God * Swami Ramdas on Himself Swami Satchidananda The Pathless Path * Thus Speaks Ramdas Vishwamata Krishnabai * Call of the Devotee God Experience Vol I & II KANNADA Anandashram Bhajanamrutha Arati Book* At the Feet of God Gita Sandesh God Experience Vol 1 Gospel of Swami Ramdas * Guidelines * Guru's Grace In Quest of God In the Vision of God I * Ramdas Speaks II*, I to V Set Stories as told by Ramdas Swami Ramdas' Talks Swami Satchidananda * The Pathless Path * Vishwamata Krishnabai World is God *	55 5 10 90 20 25 40 35 12 15 35	MALAYALAM Arati Book Bhagavad Gita* Dive Deep Soar High* Guru's Grace * In Quest of God Jnaneswari Swami Satchidananda* Vishwamata Krishnabai At the Feet of God Gita Sandesh* MARATHI Guru Krupa * In Quest of God * Prem Sudha Prem Sudha (with English) Swami Satchidananda Thus Speaks Ramdas *	10 40 300 30 25	Thus Speaks Ramdas TELUGU Arati At the Feet of God* Call of the Devotee Dive Deep & Soar High Gita Sandesh Glimpses of Divine Vision God Experience I & II Set Guidelines* Guru's Grace Hints to Aspirants In Quest of God In the Vision of God Mundane to Spiritual Passage to Divinity * Ramdas Speaks Vol I & V Set Stories by Swami Ramdas Swami Ramdas on Himself Swami Ramdas' Talks Swami Satchidananda The Sayings of Ramdas* Thus Speaks Ramdas* Vishwamata Krishnabai ORIYA In Quest of God FRENCH Thus Speaks Ramdas* Guru's Grace	30 10 30 45 25 15 100 30 40 30 30 240 25 35 26 10 30 40 40
(*) denotes books out of print. NOTE: 1. Packing and Postage Extra. Payments may be made by MO or DD favouring "ANANDASHRAM PUBLICATIONS" payable at Anandashram PO 671531, Kaniyandang, Kerala 2. GUJARATI books are available with Shri Ramkrishna Seva Samiti, Shri Ramkrishna Kendra, L G Hospital Road, Mannanagar, Ahmedabad 380008. (Telephone Number 079 25430031)							

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“Prayer is the easy way of contacting God. When you raise your heart towards the Supreme Being and commune with him, you feel at first your nearness to Him and then your actual contact with Him, and ultimately your absorption into His Being.”

- Swami Ramdas

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