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# *The Vision*

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



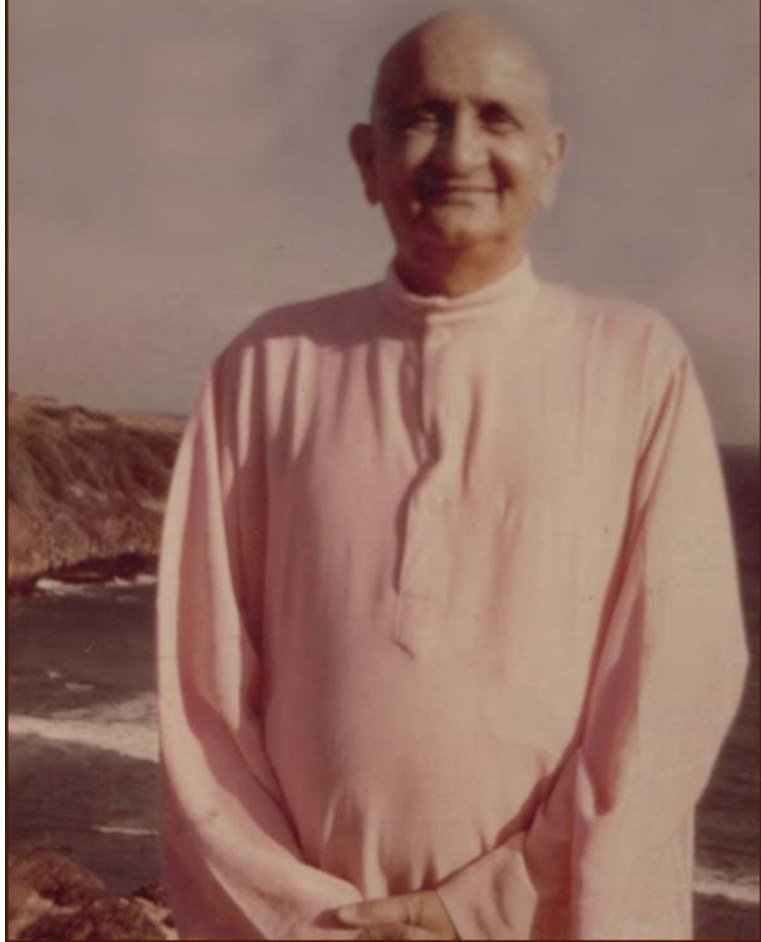
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Beloved Papa Swami Ramdas  
(1884-1963)



*Om Sri Ram jai Ram jai jai Ram*

ॐ श्री राम जय राम जय जय राम

*Om Sri Ram jai Ram jai jai Ram*

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### LOVE'S WAYS ARE STRANGE!

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LOVE'S ways are strange!  
 It is less than the least,  
 Greater than the greatest.  
 'Tis humble – 'tis proud.  
 It yields as the reed in the wind,  
 It is firm like a rock unshaken.  
 'Tis soft as a flower,  
 Hard as adamant.  
 It is filled with bliss,  
 'Tis surcharged with sorrow.  
 'Tis gentle and smiling as the new-born babe,  
 'Tis stern and grim like a volcano.  
 'Tis kind – it is cruel,  
 It wants all – it wants nothing,  
 It creates - it destroys,  
 Love's ways are strange!

- Swami Ramdas

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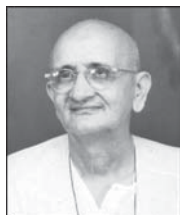
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## ATTUNEMENT WITH GOD

*By Swami Ramdas*

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Attunement with the eternal Reality is attainment of God. The bound soul is on the one side, and the free and all-pervading Spirit is on the other. The progress of the soul towards this supreme goal can be possible only as it gradually liberates itself from a state of discord and confusion. Its restless nature must be replaced by a rapture of peace and calmness. God stands for harmony and peace, while the soul is the very embodiment of unregulated emotion groping in darkness and delusion. Before the great purpose to be achieved by the soul could dawn upon it, it must invariably receive a Divine touch from outside. This touch comes from saints who have, by prolonged communion with God, transformed themselves into His very image. The aspiration which thereafter seizes the soul leads it onward with unflinching steps and an ever-burning zeal to realise the highest glory of its existence - its divine and immortal nature.



Now the question naturally arises as to how the restless soul can harmonize itself with an eternal God

of equilibrium, peace and joy. The musical instrument, if it could be of any use to the musician, should be tuned to the needed note of voice belonging to the singer. Similarly, the unstrung and unregulated chords of the soul have to be readjusted so that this human instrument may be made to synchronise with the immortal symphony of the supreme Godhead.

There is no easier method by which a soul can experience the ecstasy of the Divine than through music - a music which thrills with the sweetest of sounds, the Name of God. The melody of the Name sends such a delight through the soul and the entire physical frame that all the discord and turmoil within them immediately cease and the soul is elevated to meet and to mingle with the Divine life and bliss. Sing on the Lord's most charming Name. Sing on the infinite glories of the great Beloved until, like a drop in the ocean, your life seemingly cut off from God merges in Him and tastes the bliss and peace of immortality.

There are innumerable instances of great devotees of God who employed this sovereign means for dwelling in the infinite God. When they were inebriated with the Divine music they could not sit or stand still. They danced in ecstasy like happy children.

The outstanding figures of Chaitanya, Tukaram, Ramakrishna and so many others illustrate the truth of this path of supreme devotion. To rise above the body-idea, to dissolve the ego-sense, to fill the soul with a transcendent peace and joy, to reach a state of the highest beatitude replete with the light, knowledge and delight of God; in short, to free the soul from the fetters of bondage and ignorance, you cannot find a more efficacious, more simple and more natural Sadhana than to sing the powerful Name of the Lord in the company of saints and devotees. Ever victory be to the Name of the Lord!

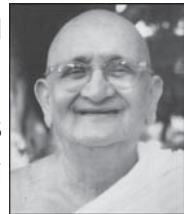
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## WORDS OF BELOVED PAPA SWAMI RAMDAS

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### BELOVED PAPA'S EXPERIENCE WITH THE DIVINE NAME:

The Mantra which Ramdas was repeating was “Om Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram”. He received this Mantra from his Guru, who was none other than his father. After the Mantra was received, Ramdas felt that it took complete possession of him. It was not that he possessed the Mantra, but the Mantra possessed him. He was constantly repeating it and in that repetition



from the very start, he felt absolute peace and joy. It was all due to God's grace, because, without His grace, our mind does not turn towards Him. Without our mind turning towards God, His name will not taste sweet to us, or prove beneficial to us. Our mind will be wandering in many directions if we repeat the Name mechanically. The mind must be attuned to the name of God and through the Name we must attain that inner consciousness or awareness of the Divine. We must also feel His presence everywhere. This is the end that we have to attain.

This Mantra was working in Ramdas' mind continuously until the mind became luminous and peaceful and all its impurities were completely eradicated. Ramdas has seen so many persons struggling on the path of God-realisation or God-vision, but they have not been able to root out the desires of their lower nature. From Ramdas' experience, he can boldly say that by the repetition of Mantra given to you by a Guru you can make your mind absolutely pure like a crystal. Purity of mind is essential for God vision. You must be absolutely honest, straight forward and free from lust, greed and wrath. Then only God can be yours. You can realise Him, experience Him, live, move and have your being in Him at all times.



This supremely beatific state can be attained by the power of the Name if only you would repeat it with all love and faith. It is God's name that you are repeating. You should not forget this fact. God is all mercy, all love, all joy, all wisdom and all peace. Be conscious always that you are repeating His name and it is bound to purify you and remove all restlessness of mind. Repeat the Mantra and make the mind like a limpid pool without any disturbance, without any dirt in it. In that pool the Divine light from within shines out and you are filled with the ecstasy of your union with the Divine. This is all brought about by the power of the Mantra.

In the early days, when Ramdas was repeating the Mantra people nearby took him to be mad, because he had no other thought than that of God, no talk but of God. Day and night he was immersed in the intoxication which made him appear like one living in an abnormal state of mind. His face was ever lit with a smile which was not feigned, which did not come from anything gained from outside, but was revealed from the heart and appeared on the face. He could not but smile, he could not but be happy, because he was in the grip of that Mantra which stood for him as God Himself.

So Ramdas has been telling friends who come to him that God and His name are not different. Either through His name or through His form, you can achieve a state of perfect bliss and peace. Can you describe in words what that divine joy and peace is? No. It is only through experience that you know it.

Take any name of God you like and repeat it always. Before he got the initiation he was repeating “Ram, Ram.” After some time the Guru himself came to him and initiated him with the Ram Mantra.

The chief condition is our surrender to Him. Surrender means feeling and saying: “O God, I am nothing; you are everything”. With this attitude towards Him if you repeat His name, your mind will be instantly still and you will experience immediate peace.

If such an attitude of surrender is not possible at once, you may look upon God as your Master and consider yourself to be His servant, and then remember the Master incessantly, so that by His light and grace you may be liberated from the clutches of the ego which is responsible for your keeping away from the Master and making you feel the sense of doership in every action. So this relationship with God is very helpful in receiving His grace and the power

that flows from the Grace is sure to elevate you and fill you with His peace and power.

You may repeat the Name whichever way you like. The only thing is you must tune your mind with God and commune with Him. If that is not done, the repetition of any Mantra will not be of use.

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### WORDS OF PUJYA MATAJI KRISHNABAI

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If you want me to remember you often and bring you to my mind, you should start doing the things I like, the things I expect from you, like serving one and all with the body, mind and soul.



But, actually none of you is doing these things. Do you, for example, give in charity or send to Papa here all that you can spare from your monthly income? Do you feel for the sufferings of others in the same way that you feel for the sufferings of your close relatives? You don't. Then, how do you expect me to remember you at all?

\*\*\*

When I first came to Papa (at Kasaragod Ashram), there was hardly anything I could do for Papa by way of service. All that I had to do was to sweep the

courtyard of the Ashram and wash the cup in which Papa took milk. There were days when I did not get the chance of even washing the cup and all that was left for me was to sweep the courtyard which I did unfailingly. Gradually, Papa increased the scope of my service and then asked me to go to different houses for serving them with the same love as I would serve Papa. Even when I was only sweeping the Ashram courtyard, I used to consider it as my great good fortune because it meant serving my Guru.

\*\*\*

When you serve your Guru, you should approach your task in a spirit of humility, only then does the job gets done well and you derive benefit from it and your spiritual progress is helped thereby. If you allow Abhiman and Swarth (selfishness) to creep into your service, then you lose everything. Never feel “I am doing this for my Guru”. Never allow the “I” to creep into your mind. If you serve your Guru with true humility, then that service alone will help you to get firmly established in Ram Nam, and Ram Nam, in turn, will lead you to other things like concentration of mind, God-remembrance and finally to Sakshatkar.

\*\*\*

You are here in the Ashram to do more Ram Nam, to dwell on Papa's Shaswat Swarup, to pray to such an Infinite, Eternal, all-pervading Papa to grant you His eternal bliss. For this, not only should you do more Ram Nam or any other Guru Mantra but every morning, on getting up, you should pray to Papa who is seated in your heart to see that you engage yourselves wholly and solely in His contemplation the whole day and on nothing else.

\*\*\*

If you remain in the Ashram physically with your mind at home, your coming here is useless – you will not be happy here. If you keep your minds on your dear and near ones left behind at home, it is better for you to remain there with them and think of Beloved Papa. You are here to do more Ram Nam and not to worry yourselves of what is happening at home.

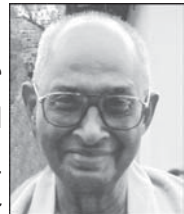
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### WORDS OF PUJYA SWAMI SATCHIDANANDAJI

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**Name – Panacea For All Ills Of Life:**

May the holy and all-powerful name Om Sri Ram Jai Ram Jai Jai Ram spread everywhere. That is the panacea for all the ills of life. That is what clears our



vision, taking us from darkness to Light and from death to Immortality. That is our saviour.

To chant Ram Nam constantly is not that easy. It requires highest devotion to God, so much so that nothing else matters. The devotee wants only God and nothing but God. He loves God more than anything else. The mind is distracted and does not permit Ram Nam always because of its desires for things of the world. By gradual chanting and prayer to the Lord seated in your heart, you will be able to develop such devotion and chant the Name constantly.

### **Everyone Is God Himself:**

Try to visualize that everyone is God Himself playing through different forms and deal with them as such. By doing so you will be able to love all genuinely and at the same time remain detached. Beloved Papa used to say, the world is exactly as it should be. That is how we should try to accept everything that happens as natural in the world-drama.

It is really thrilling to read all that you have written about the two-year old boy who enjoys hearing Ram Nam sung. Beloved Papa comes in innumerable forms, in some forms manifesting divinity from the early age itself. Let us not forget that it is He who plays

through this boy as also through all others who are enacting different roles. The saint is He. The sinner is He. Though it is easier to see Him in a saint, we should not be carried away by the wiles of a so-called sinner and forget Him, when He thus hides His divinity. Beloved Papa will surely take good care of the little boy and manifest through him His glory. Blessed are the parents of such a child.

### **Study The Mind And Choose Your Life:**

Those who have understood the hollowness of worldly life and the futility of running after worldly pleasures will have to seriously think whether they are prepared to sacrifice the so-called worldly transitory pleasures for the sake of attaining eternal happiness. Once this decision is made, they must be able to stick to it. Mostly the danger is that they are pulled by the lower nature and are therefore tempted to return to worldly life, when it may be too late. So they are neither here nor there and suffer the consequences.

So, if you want to lead a completely spiritual life, you have to study your mind and find out if you are prepared for such a dedicated and austere life. If there is any vacillation, it is better to enter worldly life and have the experience of happiness and sorrow

etc. connected with it. Nobody else can decide this for you, except of course Beloved Papa seated in your heart.

### **God's Name – The Powerful Weapon:**

To pierce through Maya the strongest weapon is chanting of God's name. The moment you chant it, feeling that you are chanting the name of One who is all-pervading, who is all-powerful and who has manifested Himself as innumerable forms in the universe, you will find the veil gradually becoming transparent. Eventually you will see through it the true state of things. Ultimately the veil is torn off and you realize your oneness with the eternal Existence.

Such is the power of the holy Name. You would have understood that Beloved Papa had also this as his main weapon, besides perfect surrender to God's will. These took him all over the country in a state of perfect joy and absolute fearlessness, though for all external purposes he was like a beggar owning nothing and not knowing where he would get his next meal or a place to rest. But the constant feeling of the presence of the Divine, within and without everywhere, kept him blissful.



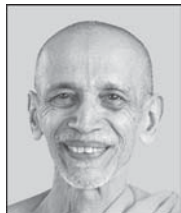
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## YOU ARE UNIQUE IN THE EYES OF GOD

*By Swami Chidananda*

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Blessed Atman! The key to blessedness lies in being aware of blessedness. If your awareness is turned in different directions, towards what you do not have, or what you think or imagine you do not have, then this wrongly directed pattern of thought will make you unaware of the many things that you have.



Each one is distinct and unique in the eyes of the Creator; there is none like that particular being, there is no second. So each one is precious and specially valuable to the Creator. In the eyes of God, therefore, each one is something special. This should always be remembered. No one can replace you in the role that you fulfil in God's creation at any given place and at any given point in time. You are most necessary and indispensable for that particular set-up, in that particular time-space context. And therefore rejoice and be grateful to the Lord that He has given you a role to perform.

Whether you perform your role perfectly and in a

meaningful manner or not is irrelevant, because God expects each one to do what one is capable of, at any point, at any time. God does not expect an ant to haul a great timber as the elephant does in the forest. Nor does God expect the elephant to fly gracefully in the air as do swallows and doves. He expects birds to fly and He loves them for what they do. He expects elephants to fulfil their role, giving dignity to the forest and doing incredible jobs of strength. And He expects man to live as man. And each one in his own place, in his own sphere, can fulfil a task and gladden the heart of the Maker and contribute something to His plan on earth.

And this is the truth. And to be aware of the truth is to be worry-free, anxiety-free. To be aware of the truth is to be grateful to God: “You have made me unique, You have given me a role, and You have prompted me and brought to me all helpful factors to fulfil my role and play my part. For that I ever give thanks.”

No one is dispensable. No one is useless. No one is lesser in the eyes of God or in the eyes of those who try to avoid human judgment and human standards of criticism, who accept God’s creation as it is, because God created it. For them, whatever God thought fit to make, in any manner whatsoever, is perfect; there

is nothing wrong in it, and it is acceptable. For them, whatever emanates from God partakes of His divinity and perfection, and therefore in God's own plan, and in God's own way, is fully complete.

In this way, if we accept this truth that to God we are unique, and so we are to all those who are trying to look with the impartiality of God's vision, then in the presence of God and of those who are devotees of God, we must feel at home, we have arrived; we may no longer feel distressed in heart. One should rejoice in serene calmness of spirit: "I have arrived, I am at home, I am in the presence of God and I am totally accepted, I am totally accepted."

Things are as they should be. The Lord is in heaven and all is well on earth. This is the faith, the firm belief of those who have faith in the infinite love of God, who have trust in the infinite goodness of God and who are sure that in God's heart they have a special and unique place. This is ever kept reserved for them and no one can take it away from them, because God's infinite heart is large enough to hold the entire cosmos and everything within it.

Thus knowing, we should have great comfort in our heart, great satisfaction and contentment. And

that is the secret of inner joy, the key to blessedness and the pathway to peace, serenity and inner calm, where there is no fretting, agitation or restlessness.

The peace of God pervades the entire earth; the peace of God pervades everywhere, without and within. The peace of God is the one great truth underlying all things, ever-present, ever-accessible and available, ever-full and inexhaustible.

Try to live in the light of this truth, and the heart and mind will be at ease. Never compare and contrast, because there is no comparing and contrasting amongst unique things. Every little fledgling hatched from an egg is unique to its parents; so is each being unique in itself, for God is the parent of all. Hence, sages and saints and men of wisdom look upon all with equal vision.

Therefore, rejoice that you are special to God in His infinite love. Rejoice that you have your own special place and role to perform in this creation of God. And rejoice that His love is immediately available to you, for He is not a remote reality, but He is the indwelling Reality, nearer to you than anything else on earth. And rejoice that within you is the peace of God as your own Self. You are God's peace and you have a

duty to perform, that is, to spread this peace which you are to one and all. Live to spread this peace!

*Source: Ponder These Truths*

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## DEAR CHILDREN

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The man whispered, “God, speak to me” And a meadowlark sang. But the man did not hear.

So the man yelled “God, speak to me” And the thunder and lightning rolled across the sky. But the man did not listen.

The man looked around and said, “God, let me see you.” And a star shone brightly. But the man did not see.

And, the man shouted, “God, show me a miracle” And a life was born. But the man did not notice.

So, the man cried out in despair, “Touch me, God, and let me know you are here” thereupon, God reached down and touched the man. But the man brushed the butterfly away and walked on.

The man cried out again, “God, I need your help” ...and an e-mail arrived reaching out with good news and encouragement. But the man deleted it unopened because “Fw:” was in the Subject; and continued crying...

The good news is that you are loved. Don't miss out on a blessing because it isn't packaged the way that you expect.

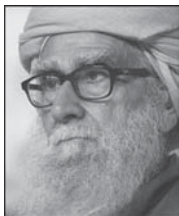
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## EXPERIENCE OF THE PRESENCE OF GOD

*By Maulana Wahiduddin Khan*

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Among the three people who travelled on the spacecraft Apollo-15 to the moon in 1972 was a man called Col. James Irwin. In an interview, he related that it was an astounding experience to set foot on the moon. He felt God's presence on the moon, he said. He was ecstatic, sensing something deep inside his soul. He felt God very close to Him. He could see God's glory with his own eyes, he said. For him, he explained, that trip to the moon was not just a scientific expedition. It had also blessed him with a spiritual life.



Col. Irwin's experience was by no means an unusual one. The fact is that all that God has made is so utterly amazing that one is awe-struck on seeing His creation and thinking how great the Creator of all of this must be. The face of God appears every moment in the perfection of His creation. But we have become so used to seeing the world around us, from our infancy

onwards, that we do not feel its uniqueness. The air, the water, the trees and the birds – everything that exists in the world – all of these are incredibly astounding. Every one of these things is a mirror of the Creator. Because we have become so used to them, we do not realise how amazing they all are. But when someone suddenly steps on the moon and sees the system of creation there for the first time ever, he cannot remain without feeling the ‘presence of God’. He sees the Creator reflected in the workings of His creation.

We can experience God’s presence in the world where we live in the same way as Col. Irwin did when he landed on the moon. But people do not see this world in the same awe-struck way as someone who steps for the first time on the moon sees it. If we begin to see our world in this way, at every moment we will experience the ‘presence of God’. We will begin to live as if we are in the neighbourhood of God, and that at every moment He is present before our eyes.

If we see a high-quality machine for the first time, we immediately feel the presence there of an expert engineer. In the same way, if we can see deep into the world and whatever it contains, we will find at that very moment the ‘presence of God’. The

Creator will appear to us in such a way that we will not be able to separate the Creator from the creation.

The greatest achievement for someone in this world is to begin seeing God, to feel the presence of God near him. If he is truly alive, he will see the light of God in the brilliant rays of the sun. He will discern reflections of God in the verdant trees. He will experience the touch of God in the softness of the breeze. While prostrating and touching his palms and forehead on the ground, he will experience surrendering his entire existence at the feet of His Lord.

God is present everywhere. This you can know if you acquire the eyes that you need to truly see.

*Source: Translated from 'Khuda aur Insan'  
(God and man)*

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## COMMUNICATE WITH GOD

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Once, a construction supervisor working at 6th floor of a building called out to his assistant on the ground floor. Because of construction noises the assistant did not hear a thing.

To draw the attention of his assistant, the supervisor threw a 10 Rupee note which fell right in front of the assistant. The assistant picked it up, put



it in his pocket and continued with his work.

Again to draw the attention of assistant, the supervisor threw down a 500 Rupee note and the assistant did the same, picked it up and put it in his pocket and then resumed his work.

Now to draw attention of the assistant; the supervisor picked up a small stone and threw it at his assistant. The stone hit the assistant's head. This time he looked up and the supervisor could communicate with the assistant.

This is the story of our life. God from above wants to communicate with us, but we are busy doing our worldly chores. God gives us small gifts & we just keep them without looking from where we got them.

Then God gives us more gifts but we remain oblivious. We just keep the gifts without seeing from where these come from and never thank Him. We just say we are LUCKY.

It is only when we are hit with a small stone - which we call problems, then we look up & we start communicating with God.

Every time we get a gift, should we not thank God immediately? Should we wait till we are hit by a stone or face a problem? Communicate with God...

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## LIFE

*By Mooji*

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We don't 'have' a life, we 'are' life itself and, simultaneously, we are the witness to life and all its expressions as it unfolds.



Reflect: if life is what we 'have' then we will lose it one day, for all possessions are impermanent. Such a belief automatically places us in the position of the body which is time-bound and perishable.

But, when we come to the understanding that we 'are' life itself then all fears go, as this understanding places us in the position of consciousness, which is formless, timeless and imperishable.

The belief that we are merely our bodies makes us anxious and hurried, for on a subconscious level we are driven to get as much as we can before it all ends. This has been the ongoing trauma of the human being throughout the ages. However, as consciousness itself, we are not time-bound. Our mind and world becomes a wiser and more peaceful existence, for we know inside our hearts that we are the eternal.

*Source: <https://www.facebook.com/moojiji>*

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FROM THE LEAVES OF THE BACK ISSUES  
*THE VISION, May 1969*

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**MATRI VANI**

***Words of Shree Anandamayee Ma***

Every moment belongs to God. Endeavour to keep your mind dedicated to His Feet. God, the Ocean of Mercy, who ever blessed the world, pours out His Grace at all times. It is incumbent on man to consider everything that happens to be for the best: 'For the best' denoting what is most helpful towards the realisation of the Divine, the realisation of the fullness of bliss.

Who are truly wealthy? Those who are possessed of the Supreme Treasure - they alone are really rich and live in abundance. Poor and destitute must be called the man in whose heart the remembrance of God abides not. To depend solely on Him is man's one and only duty.

Let His Name be ever with you; imperceptibly, relentlessly time is creeping away.

It is possible to practice God's Name under the most adverse circumstances. He causes everything to happen and is therefore ever near.

In whatever state He keeps anyone at anytime it is all for the good, for verily everything is ordered by Him, is of Him.

Relative happiness which is happiness depending on anything, must end in grief. It is man's duty to meditate on God, who is Peace Itself. Without having recourse to that which aids the remembrance of God there can be no peace. Have you not seen what life in this world is? The One to be loved is God. In Him is everything - Him you must try to find.

The Lord's is the body, the Lord's is the mind, the Lord's is all mankind. Serving anyone is His service only. Endeavour to keep your mind always elevated. Is there ever a time when He is invisible? The discovery of this is all that is wanting.

By doing service heart and mind are purified - be convinced of this! To engage in service is a very powerful Sadhana: do not become impatient. Rather serve your people with the utmost calm and have a kind word for everyone. Whenever you say or do anything wrong, beg to be forgiven and try your best not to let a similar error occur in future. Even though others may be unjust to you, you yourself should neither do nor say anything unseemly.

The stream of Godly thoughts is the path that leads to the exhaustion of Karma. So long as the goal has not been reached, one is bound to reap the

consequences of right action, wrong action and inaction – according to Karma, the law of cause and effect.

Where God may place you at any time and under whatever circumstances, recollect that it is all for the best. Endeavour to go through life leaving your burdens in His hands. He is the Preserver, He is the Guide, He is the All-in-all.

At all times let forbearance be your norm. Say to yourself, “Lord, everything Thou doest is for the highest good!” Pray for the power of endurance. Nothing happens that is not an expression of God’s Grace: verily all is His Grace.

Anchored in patience, enduring everything, abide by His Name and live joyously.

All this, which is His creation, is under His dispensation, in His presence and is He.

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## EPISTLES OF SWAMI RAMDAS

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Beloved Ram,

May Sri Ram bless you all!

*“Courage, brother, do not stumble,  
Though thy path be dark as night.  
There is a star to guide the humble.  
Trust in God and do the right.”*

Our goal here is to seek rest in activity. In the rush of movement and work, find the haven of peace and joy. Identifying yourself with the Immortal, do all work as His worship, as His service. This is Yoga. Shrink not. Faint not. Trust the Almighty Lord of the worlds. He is in you; you are in Him; He and you are one. Whatever work God provides you, do it dispassionately - yourself, a mere instrument, with God's power or Shakti as the doer. God is love; He is in your heart. Surrender to Him. Let Him be your guide and master in all matters. Give up doubts, cares and fears.

Love to you and all.



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**PUJYA SWAMI SEVANANDAJI  
ATTAINS MAHA SAMADHI**

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Revered Swami Sevanandaji of Vatsalya Dham, Mudhol (North Karnataka), attained Maha Samadhi on the 2nd of January 2014. He was 95 years old.

Prior to joining Vatsalya Dham in 1982, Pujya Swamiji was in Wardha for 40 years as a sevak of Acharya Vinobaji. He was also a freedom fighter and participated in the Quit India Movement.

Pujya Swamiji had been closely associating with Anandashram for quite some time. He had also visited the Ashram in 1957 along with Acharya Vinobaji.

He used to send letters every month giving the Ram Nam count and would also embellish the letters with his love and anecdotes from the lives of Gandhiji and Vinobaji.

May the life and mission of Pujya Swamiji continue to inspire more and more devotees to walk on the spiritual path with confidence and determination and thus attain the Supreme Goal of human life.

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### IN MEMORIAM

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Sri Premanand Trikannad (aged 74) was called by Beloved Papa on the 28<sup>th</sup> of January 2014 at Pune. He was the last in the third generation lineage of Beloved Papa Swami Ramdas in poorvashram.

Premanandji was unwell recently and in the past few weeks his health condition was fluctuating. May the departed soul rest in eternal peace at His lotus feet!

He has left behind his devoted wife Sheela, son Deepak and his family. Sheelaji was a pillar of strength for him and was literally on her toes to serve him in

spite of and unmindful of her own health problems.

Premanandji was an incredibly generous, humble, and selfless person. He would gladly give the shirt off his back to help those in need.

With his beautiful voice and welcoming personality, Pemanandji had endeared himself to all in the San Diego Indian community in the US, where they lived for over three decades.

Together with Sheelaji, he hosted bhajans every Thursday evening. Each New Year also, they hosted Akhand Ram Nam which lasted 24 hours. They welcomed everyone with open and loving arms. Over the years, often close to a hundred would attend the sessions. In fact their home in San Diego was almost like an Ashram which was visited by many, many saints and singers.

They retired to Pune in 2003 and stayed there ever since.

He sang blissfully whether there was an audience or not. Those who have had the fortune to listen to him truly understand the overwhelming warmth that his voice brought. He sang Ram Nam with every breath; even with his very last one.



Premanandji may have left the body but he will live for a long, long time in the form of his Bhajans rendered in a mellifluous voice and with intense feeling.

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## ANANDASHRAM NEWS

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**15,500-CRORE NAMA JAPA YAGNA FOR WORLD PEACE:** The total Nama Japa for world peace received in the month of January 2014 is 250 crores. The grand total of the Japa done so far now stands at 6181 crores.

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## FROM THE EDITOR

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The month of March for most people in India signifies the year-ending. Just as we take stock of our gains and losses at the end of every year by drawing the final accounts, we should know that our own pluses and minuses would be measured at the end of our lives. The thought that arises at the last moment of one's life is the essence of the whole of one's life. By constantly remembering this, we must ensure that everything that we think, say or do will be a befitting offering to the Lord. We should fix the mind on this final answer while solving the problem of

life. There is an incident in Sant Eknathji's life. When somebody asked him as to how it was possible for him to be so pure, calm and kind, he told the person to think about himself because he was but a few days away from death. A few days later, when Eknathji met the man and asked him how many sins he had committed in these few days, the man remarked, 'Sir, where was the time for that? Death was always before my eyes.' Eknathji replied then, 'Now you know why the lives of people like me are sinless. How can the mind entertain such evil thoughts when we know that each day we are heading towards death?'

By constantly remembering the true purpose of our lives, we must remain resolute in our Sadhana and become conscious of our real gains in life in each passing day.

— MUKTANANDA

*The path of pure and simple Bhakti is one of the easiest means to reach the all-powerful feet of the Lord. Self-surrender is the goal. Pure aspiration and ceaseless meditation constitute the path. All else is secondary.*

— Swami Ramdas

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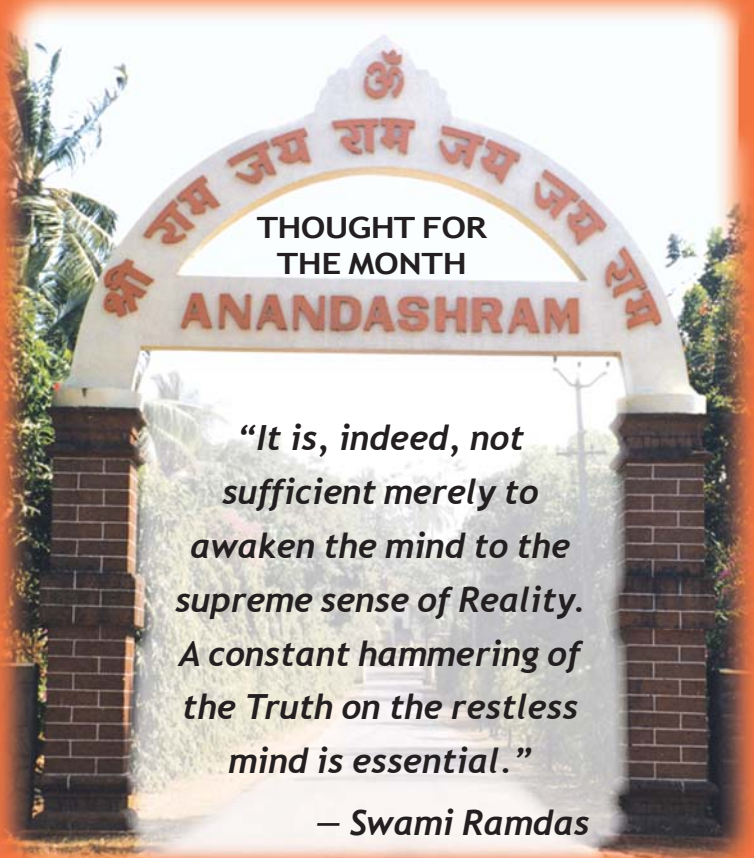
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