



The Vision

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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

INFINITE MY HOME

I am the spark away from the fire,
I am the drop strayed from the sea,
I am the leaf estranged from the tree,
I long for the fire, I stretch for the sea,
I aim to rejoin the tree.
I come from the Infinite;
Infinite is my home,
I go back there
And become the Infinite.

- Swami Ramdas

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THE VISION

A Monthly Magazine

Anandashram

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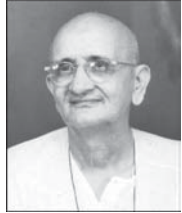
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THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

By Swami Ramdas

(22nd April 2016 marks Beloved Papa's 132nd Jayanti. On this day The Vision fervently prays for His blessings on all devotees for their speedy spiritual progress, culminating in realising their oneness with Him.)



The purpose of life is to live in the consciousness of the Divine and be active in the service of humanity. The conflicts in the world have afforded us ample opportunities to shed our selfish ambitions and utilize the energies – mental and physical – which God has granted us for the relief and rescue of the sufferers. True liberation, peace and bliss can come to the share of a spiritual aspirant only when he or she combines the inner Sadhana of remembrance and meditation with the outer dedication of actions to the Divine. Every action performed in an impersonal spirit becomes a worship of God. Such actions are prompted by love, sympathy and goodwill towards those who are in distress. Unless the heart is softened with the feeling of compassion for those who are stricken with misery

and pain, the soul cannot progress on the divine path and reach God. These are not the days for living an easy, luxurious and inactive life. All personal comforts and petty desires for one's own material advancement and the sense of invidious distinctions and likes and dislikes and all the various weaknesses of human nature that stand for strife and disunion have to be given up so that life may be offered in its totality to the service of God in the world.

How momentary and ephemeral is the nature of things around us! At the same time we cannot but realize that there exists a Spirit of immortal radiance which death cannot touch and change cannot affect – a Spirit of supreme peace, power and knowledge.

The message which is ringing in our ears at the present hour is: stand up as heroic soldiers of God and fight in the cause of justice and truth and bring unity, peace and harmony in the world. Let fear, depression and hesitation be wiped out of your lives. You are the expressions of the immortal Spirit – God. You have assumed a body only for service and sacrifice.

Therefore assert your Divinity and fill your life with the rapture of selfless action. Young men and women, you have a great task before you. The future of the

world is in your hands. You can create, through a dedicated life of service, a new world in which all people in it can live in mutual friendliness and goodwill. It is in your power to so inspire your life with Divine Shakti that you can dispel the darkness of discord and violence and establish universal love and peace.

Spiritual discipline and attainment does not mean to live a life of seclusion – cut off from the world of activity. Knowing that you are by nature eternally free from change and death, that you are ever in union with the Absolute, permit your life to flow like a river to protect and nourish the needy and helpless. May Divine grace enlighten your path; may Divine power actuate you to great, noble and, selfless deeds; may, Divine grace fill your hearts with peace, love and compassion; may Divine grace transform your lives into the images of the Divine.

WORDS OF BELOVED PAPA SWAMI RAMDAS

Object of Life: Every awakened man or woman knows that the object of life is to realize God. Now what does ‘realizing God’ mean? God is not a far away being with whom we have to get



united and experience liberation and peace by such union. God is, in fact, the truth of our very existence. We are the Truth itself – God Himself.

In other words, we can say that we have to realize the Self. Self, God and Truth are one and the same. To be aware of what we are in reality is the aim of life. As it is, men and women feel that they are merely individuals, made up of a bundle of sensations and bodies composed of five elements. This is not the truth. We are all manifestations of the one Truth, the one Reality which is eternal, all-pervading, changeless, ever-illuminated, whose nature is pure bliss and peace.

How to know that we are this Truth? The simple method is to constantly think and remember that we are this Truth and by so doing dispel the illusion which makes us believe that we are only the perishable, manifested beings or bodies. Remembrance connotes removal of forgetfulness. Forgetfulness – which makes us wrongly think we are what we are not – should be removed by remembering what we actually are. The thought – waves that are responsible for the obliviousness of our true being and nature have to be quelled. Truly, they must disappear or dissolve in order

that we may achieve a state of perfect inner serenity, stillness and peace.

Once the mind ceases to be restless, being free from thoughts and desires, that moment we are not individuals, but Pure Consciousness which is at once cosmic and super-cosmic in nature. Stillness of the mind awakens in us a consciousness which is full of radiance and ecstasy. Now we know that we are the Truth – the Eternal.

To tune our mind to one thought, to the exclusion of all others, in order to ultimately dissolve even this one thought, the chanting of God's name is the way. The sound of God's name is so fascinating to the mind that it gets itself easily concentrated on it, and ultimately losing itself in a super-conscious existence, disappears into it producing the needed inner spiritual illumination.

All our thoughts, words and activities should conform to the realization of God, i.e., the expansion of our little self, so that it may merge in the universal consciousness and life. It is a process of sublimation in which the individuality gradually vanishes and ultimately we stand revealed as the very embodiment of the all-pervading and immortal Divine.

WORDS OF PUJYA MATAJI KRISHNABAI

1.30 pm; Bhajan Hall: A European lady devotee referred to the six internal “enemies” (Kama, Krodha, Moha, Lobha, Mada and Matsarya) referred to by Mataji in her autobiography *Guru’s Grace* and asked how Mataji befriended these six forces and put them to good use. Mataji said: “Normally, these six forces are directed by man against others outside. But, Beloved Papa made me do Sadhana in such a way that not only were the six hostile qualities not directed at others but each one of them was deployed to accelerate my own Sadhana. To begin with, Papa evinced in me a keen longing to have His supreme Being. This grew into an intense desire in me and thus was Kama or desire directed towards a spiritual purpose. To this end, Papa made me do Dhyana, Japa and Seva simultaneously, making me look upon all people around me as Papa’s own forms. The next step was for me to get angry with myself – that was Krodha – for not progressing as fast as I wanted to. Thus, here again, anger which is usually directed at others was spent on myself and that too



for a good purpose. The third was Lobha which means avarice or the hoarding instinct. As my Sadhana progressed, I became “greedy” insofar as my spiritual happiness was concerned and wanted to accumulate whatever bliss I was feeling, more and more. That became Lobha directed towards me. The fourth “evil force” to be transformed and transmuted was Moha or attachment. I became very much attached to the fruit of my Sadhana, to my new-found Bliss. Then, finally, there was Matsarya or jealousy. I put even this force to good use by directing my jealousy towards my Guru – Beloved Papa Himself. I started telling him: “Papa, you have attained God-realization and eternal Bliss. Why shouldn’t I also have it?” Thus jealousy also became a spiritual aid in my Sadhana. By this process, all the six so-called evil forces became forces for betterment in my Sadhana, leading to God-realization.”

Devotee: “Did you ever direct any of these qualities against others from the day your Sadhana started?”

Mataji: “In the beginning of my Sadhana, I used to get angry with the children for being naughty etc. and used to scold them severely and even beat them. Then Beloved Papa told me that if I beat the children,

it would amount to beating Papa Himself. From that moment, I stopped beating them.”

Devotee: “Why do Papa and Mataji advise us to do Sadhana while remaining in the family itself?”

Mataji: “Doing one’s Sadhana in one’s own house is like fighting a battle from the safe confines of a fortress. Whereas, if you leave the house, you will be like the warrior on the plain who is poorly matched against the forces deployed against him. We should begin by looking upon our people as forms of our Guru and serve them as we would serve our Master. That would also teach us how to look upon the world at large and at all creatures in the world as His forms.”

PUJYA SWAMIJI’S SEARCH FOR ANSWERS ABOUT THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

From my school days, I had a feeling that I did not belong to the family and I was like a stranger in the house. I do not know how others felt about it. The question: “Why this life and what is the purpose of this life?” was haunting me constantly and I was trying to find an answer. I did not like to ask anybody this question, as I did not think anybody would



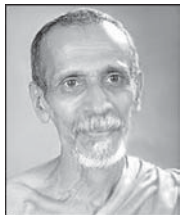
answer it. I did not find life worth living. There were occasions when I tried to end my life but did not succeed. Thus years passed. Yet I could not get the answer to the question. I did not like the way people lived – loving only their dear ones, unconcerned with those who are not related to them, inimical to some, hating some, exploiting others for one's own benefit, etc. Though I did not like such things I had no idea of anything better.

It was in such a desperate condition that I joined the Army service which strangely gave me a lot of experience within a short time – to study the nature of people, how cruel man can be etc. During Army life I had a general awakening and I came to understand that one can get peace – everlasting peace – only if one gets God-realisation and that the more we think of God, the more peaceful our life will be. Certain experiences then taught me that man is controlled by God's Will and that all external events that change the pattern of his life, happen only according to God's Will. Certain incidents categorically proved that God constantly protected me, and, from then on, my aspiration was to live for God only and not to work for money, name or fame. I desired to get out of the

Army and lead a completely spiritual life, taking God's Name all the time.

THE LIFE THAT YOU ARE MEANT TO LIVE

By Swami Chidananda



If you take a look at the life of Lord Krishna, you see right from His birth until the moment of His withdrawal from His earth Lila a most incident-filled life. He was never at repose, constantly on the move, ever amongst men, ever engaged in acts. Right from His infancy until His last moment, He was one who went about doing good, helping people, setting right what was wrong, restoring happiness to people who had lost it, ever helping, ever coming to the aid of people in so many different ways.

He was an embodiment of Paropakara, of being good and doing good, of help, of running to the aid of the distressed at their call. This is what we find. From start to finish, His life was one of dedication, of constantly doing good, constantly helping others. Never a thought for Himself – others, others, others – so that all His life He made people happy, He left a trail of gratitude. The whole world benefited for His

having been in it – rich and poor alike.

He thus shone, not only as a great Divine personality but as a sublime example of a noble Mahaparopakari. If Rama shone as an ideal human being, Krishna shone as a noble, sublime Paropakari.

It is in this light that perhaps we could say that being endowed with human status – the power to think, to feel, to reason, to know what is noble and what is ignoble, what is sublime and what is base – if a person does not make use of this endowment and lives for oneself – selfishly, self-centred, ever thinking of oneself – the life of such a person is not life, it is living death. Whereas, a person, who while making a living and looking after oneself, is also ceaselessly engaged in the welfare of others, the happiness of others, in helping and being good to others, being useful, benefiting God's creation, such a life is really true life. It is not a living death like the life of a selfish person, but it is a fully lived, true life.

And the life of a human being who lives for God, not only for humanity but is also ever intent upon God, living for Him, every moment breathing for Him, remembering and thinking of Him, and directing the

devotion of one's heart towards Him, such a life is not only a well-lived life, such a life has no death. Such a life merges into everlasting life. It is eternal life, divine life, a life in God where you know yourself as a part of God.

Therefore, even while you are in this body, you are living not a human life, not a worldly or earthly life, but you are one with the everlasting life of God Himself. You are part of Him. You live as That, shining with divinity, manifesting divinity through thought, word and deed, bringing that divinity into life and all its activities and movements.

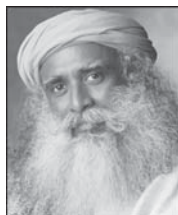
Such a life should indeed be aspired for. Such a life should indeed be striven after. And such a life is life divine, life sublime. Such a life is eternal life. Such a life is a life of God on earth. That indeed is the shining ideal held up before modern humanity by beloved Gurudev. For that is your birthright. You are meant to live such a life. Having come into this world of pain and death, this would indeed be the fulfilment of your divine mission. It is eternal life even while living in this perishable body. It is immortal life. It is a godly life. Strive for it and be blessed!

Source: A Call To Liberation

ENJOYING EVERY DAY IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE

By Sadhguru Jaggi Vasudev

I am often asked, “What is the purpose of life?” If a person were blissful at this moment, he would never have this question. If just sitting here and breathing was ecstatic, it would never arise. Only when life has become burdensome do we have these “To be or not to be” questions.



It is because human beings have not realized the immensity of their existence that they are constantly looking for “meaning”. Only someone who has paid no attention to life and has paid too much attention to his mind asks such a question. The problem with human beings is they are so full of themselves that they think there must be some grand hidden purpose.

What more grandeur do you need than the way life is right now? If you look a little deeper, you will see that every cell, every atom in the trees around you is a cosmos by itself. It is the grandest thing that’s happening. It is a fortune that you are given access to it; that you are allowed to live in its lap. It is so enormous, so intricate, so fantastic, it does not need any purpose.

Every human being has a thirst to be boundless. Something within you is longing to break boundaries. This thirst is not created by you; it is just life longing for itself. This is life's purpose: it is trying to expand into its unboundedness. It wants to find its original nature. We're just seeing how to find the way: this is all that spirituality is.

The purpose of existence is to exist. Right now human beings feel they have to go somewhere or do something to feel substantial. If we bring sufficient awareness into the world, a day can come when people can feel complete as they are. No education, no culture, no learning, no spirituality, no God, nothing is needed. If they just sit here they can feel blissful. Once people know the joy of their existence, they will not ask for anything more.

At present, if people have to be happy, they have to do a million things. Whatever they do – their education, career, business, marriage, family, everything – is in pursuit of happiness. This is simply because they are not in touch with existence.

If you want to find the purpose of your life, just learn to enhance this life to its maximum potential. Most people don't even know what life is. In your

experience, all you have is a body and mind. Start by making them as pleasant as you can. Only when your body and mind are in a state of pleasantness, everything in you works at its best. If you manage to remain in a continual state of blissfulness for twenty-four hours, even your intelligence will double. There is enough medical evidence to substantiate this.

Have you spent a single day in your life without a moment of agitation, irritation, anger or anxiety? Almost everyone would say no. If you are not blissful one day, that's understandable. But not having been blissful for a single day means that something very fundamental is wrong.

The problem is just this: without understanding the fundamentals of what this human mechanism is you are trying to operate it. It is like getting into a car without knowing what the three pedals are. If you just kicked any one of them, do you know what a jerky driver you would be? Right now your wellbeing is this jerky. You know moments of joy, love, bliss, ecstasy, but you are not able to sustain these. You are trying to operate your life without understanding the sophistication of the mechanism that you are handling.

If you could just sit here for one moment and

experience the magnificent nature of your being, you'd know you don't have to do anything. Just being alive is grand enough.

Source: www.newindianexpress.com

WHAT IS THE PURPOSE OF LIFE?

Sri Sri Ravi Shankar Answers



Q: Does everybody have a role to play or some purpose in their life? Does the consciousness decide something before it is born in each life?

A: Correct, you got it! Every life has a purpose. Not a blade of grass is here without a purpose.

It will open up at its right time naturally. You just keep doing your duty. Keep yourself hollow and empty. Meditate and do service and you will see everything will fall in place.

Q: Since everything changes, nothing stays the same, does our life's purpose also change sometimes?

A: Yes. All change is possible.

Q: What is the true meaning of life?

A: Ah... this you better find out for yourself. Don't

ask the meaning from me. It's like asking me to chew your candy for you. It is not possible.

And it is useless to find a meaning. See – a flower blooms; what is the purpose of beauty? What is the purpose of joy? There is no purpose for joy; it is the end in itself. You may say it's strange. Life when lived in its totality is the end in itself and beginning in itself. Love, joy, beauty – all that is precious and valuable in life is really beyond value, beyond meaning, beyond purpose.

Be with this question. I can tell you one thing: you are very fortunate that this question arises in your mind. One in a million people will sincerely get this question. It means that you have started your journey towards the light.

Be with this question, and don't be in a hurry to get a ready-made answer from somebody. Go deep into yourself and you will find out.

Lastly, somewhere I (questioner) had read this, in which Sri Sri Ravi Shankar beautifully describes the aspect of being useful as a purpose of life:

“In life there are two situations: One is when you are comfortable and happy. Another situation is when you are upset and unhappy.

So what is needed to maintain this comfort and happiness is a willingness to do service.

When we are happy then we don't serve. Usually the mind doesn't go in that direction. When you are happy you just want to enjoy and don't think about caring, sharing or service at that time, and that is when it is very much needed. When you are happy and you do service then happiness will remain.

What we need to pray for is the willingness to do Seva when we are happy, and the ability to let go and turn inward when we are unhappy. We need to ask for this, 'Give me the strength to let go and turn inward when I am unhappy.' And learning to let go of the world when we are still here, in it, enjoying it, is wisdom."

Source: <https://www.quora.com>

ALL STRIVING FOR PERFECTION - CONSCIOUSLY OR UNCONSCIOUSLY

By Swami Vivekananda

Two birds of beautiful plumage, inseparable companions, sat upon the same tree, one on the top and one below. The beautiful bird below was eating the fruits of the tree, sweet and



bitter, one moment a sweet one and another a bitter. The moment he ate a bitter fruit, he was sorry, but after a while he ate another and when it too was bitter, he looked up and saw the other bird who ate neither the sweet nor the bitter, but was calm and majestic, immersed in his own glory. And then the poor lower bird forgot and went on eating the sweet and bitter fruits again, until at last he ate one that was extremely bitter; and then he stopped again and once more looked up at the glorious bird above. Then he came nearer and nearer to the other bird; and when he had come near enough, rays of light shone upon him and enveloped him, and he saw he was transformed into the higher bird. He became calm, majestic, free, and found that there had been but one bird all the time on the tree. The lower bird was but the reflection of the one above. So we are in reality one with the Lord, but the reflection makes us seem many, as when the one sun reflects in a million dew-drops and seems a million tiny suns. The reflection must vanish if we are to identify ourselves with our real nature which is Divine. The universe itself can never be the limit of our satisfaction. That is why the miser gathers more and more money, that is why the robber robs, the sinner sins, that is why you are

learning philosophy. All have one purpose. There is no other purpose in life, save to reach this freedom. Consciously or unconsciously, we are all striving for perfection. Every being must attain to it.

Get rid, in the first place, of all these limited ideas and see God in every person – working through all hands, walking through all feet, and eating through every mouth. In every being He lives, through all minds He thinks. He is self-evident, nearer unto us than ourselves. To know this is religion, is faith, and may it please the Lord to give us this faith! When we shall feel that oneness, we shall be immortal. We are physically immortal even, one with the universe. So long as there is one that breathes throughout the universe, I live in that one. I am not this limited little being, I am the universal. I am the life of all the souls of the past. I am the soul of Buddha, of Jesus, of Mohammad. I am the soul of the teachers, and I am all the robbers that robbed, and all the murderers that were hanged, I am the universal. Stand up then; this is the highest worship. You are one with the universe. That only is humility – not crawling upon all fours and calling yourself a sinner. That is the highest evolution when this veil of differentiation is torn off. The highest creed is Oneness. I am so-and-so is a limited idea, not true of the real “I”.

I am the universal; stand upon that and ever worship the Highest through the highest form, for God is Spirit and should be worshipped in spirit and in truth. Through lower forms of worship, man's material thoughts rise to spiritual worship and the Universal Infinite One is at last worshipped in and through the Spirit. That which is limited is material. The Spirit alone is infinite. God is Spirit, is infinite; man is Spirit and therefore infinite, and the Infinite alone can worship the Infinite. We will worship the Infinite; that is the highest spiritual worship. The grandeur of realising these ideas, how difficult it is! I theorise, talk, philosophize; and the next moment something comes against me, and I unconsciously become angry, I forget there is anything in the universe but this little limited self, I forget to say, "I am the Spirit, what is this trifle to me? I am the Spirit." I forget it is all myself playing, I forget God, I forget freedom.

Source: Complete Words Of Swami Vivekananda

EPISTLES OF SWAMI RAMDAS

Beloved Mother,
May Sri Ram bless you all!

Ramdas has been all along speaking and writing to you on spiritual things, from his own experience of this life. Ramdas is entirely in the hands of God. God

alone is his great Teacher. Based upon Ramdas' experience, through which God made him pass, he is giving briefly in this letter, what should be our true outlook upon life.

The world with all beings and things in it is evanescent, and God alone is real, eternal and unchanging. All forms have a beginning and an end. Whatever is born is bound to perish and pass away. The sense of misery here is due to our attachment to the perishable forms. Our goal of life is to realise God, i.e., our immortality. In order to do that, we have to withdraw our mind from whatever is seen, which is transient, and direct it to Him – who is within us and pervades the entire universe – the one absolute Existence, the sole Reality. When the mind transcends name and form, it attains the vision of the Supreme. The joys and grief relating to the external world are caused by the workings of the mind. Stop the restlessness of the mind, and the joys and grief both cease to be, and are thereby proved to be entirely unreal. And a calmness settles upon the mind which is of the Eternal, of the Truth of our being. Hence, to lament over the loss of anything here is utter folly; only that which is by nature perishable has passed away. Behold, the whole

universe is a huge passing show. In it, innumerable forms appear and disappear at every moment. This is the nature and order of all things. So instead of allowing ourselves to be upset by the change in the transient, let us strive to fix our mind upon the deathless, formless, eternal Truth. This is done only by stilling the mind – by the quietening of all waves of thought that trouble it. The path is the repetition of God’s name, meditation and the surrender of all our actions to God.

We can realise fully the transitory and illusory nature of the world only when we have turned our mind to God. Then, taking our stand on the immortal, let us view the vast and changing play of the universe and remain unaffected by it. This is liberation. Make God the goal and purpose of your existence. Nothing short of this is worth the least consideration and thought. Why throw away a precious life? Dedicate it to God and His service as Mirabai did. Love Him in all. Serve Him in all. And make yourself blessed, pure and peaceful. May God bless you!

Real peace can be ours only when we have offered ourselves up entirely to God, and then do everything for His sake and pray to Him constantly for nothing but, “To lead us from the unreal to the real; from

darkness to light, and from death to immortality.”

God is kind. He teaches us through our experiences that desires are our enemies and sense-objects are wombs of misery. Still we crave for them and suffer. Whose fault? Ours only! Why then blame God? We want lasting happiness by the enjoyment of things which are in their very nature incapable of yielding us such happiness! God is patiently waiting for His children to turn to Him with a longing to be with Him only. When we do so, He at once takes us in His arms and blesses us with immortal happiness, a happiness not dependent upon perishable objects but upon Him – who ever dwells in our hearts – the eternal Reality. Love to you and all there,

Your child,



ME TO WE

*(Dwelling On The Values Describing
The Lord's Dearest Devotee In Srimad Bhagavad Gita)*

Intensely dwelling on the last eight Shlokas in Chapter 12 of Srimad Bhagavad Gita explains how an aspirant can become the dearest devotee of the Lord. Let us try to understand and then emulate the

values described in these shlokas through an example from daily life:

NIRAHANKARA (Absence Of Egoism):

A devotee who was on a pilgrimage to North India, reached Brindavan in peak summer. There he saw a middle aged person serving pure water with joy to the thirsty pilgrims. Seeing the man's loving and serving attitude, the devotee offered some money. That person politely declined to accept it in spite of repeated requests. In the evening, when he was taken to a hotel to have cold drinks, he saw the same person who was serving water that morning, sitting at the cash counter of the hotel. He was then informed that this person was the owner. Feeling extremely humbled by the hotel owner's humility and service, he immediately prostrated and sought forgiveness for having offered money that morning.

DEAR CHILDREN

Dwight Nelson recently told a true story about the pastor of his church. He had a kitten that climbed up a tree in his backyard and then was afraid to come down. The pastor coaxed, offered warm milk, etc., but the kitten would not come down. The tree was not sturdy enough to climb, so the pastor decided that if he tied

a rope to his car and pulled it until the tree bent down, he could then reach up and get the kitten.

That's what he did, all the while checking his progress in the car. He then figured if he went just a little bit further, the tree would be bent sufficiently for him to reach the kitten. But as he moved the car a little further forward, the rope broke. The tree went 'boing!' and the kitten instantly sailed through the air – out of sight.

The pastor felt terrible. He walked all over the neighbourhood asking people if they'd seen a little kitten. No! Nobody had seen a stray kitten. So he prayed, 'Lord, I commit this kitten to your keeping,' and went on about his business.

A few days later he was at the grocery store, and met one of his church members. He happened to look into her shopping cart and was amazed to see cat food. This woman was a cat hater and everyone knew it, so he asked her, 'Why are you buying cat food when you hate cats so much?'

She replied, 'You won't believe this,' and then told him how her little girl had been begging her for a cat, but she kept refusing. Then a few days before, the child had begged again, so the lady finally told her little girl, 'Well, if God gives you a cat, I'll let you

keep it.' She told the pastor, 'I watched my child go out in the yard, get on her knees, and ask God for a cat. And really Pastor, you won't believe this, but I saw it with my own eyes. A kitten suddenly came flying out of the blue sky, with its paws outspread, and landed right in front of her.'

Never underestimate the Power of God and His unique sense of humour. Anyone can count the seeds in an apple; but only God can count the apples in a seed. Each day is God's gift to you; make it blossom and grow into a day of beauty."

SWAMI PADMANABHANANDAJI'S VISIT

Pujya Mataji always gave lot of importance to having Darshan of and Satsang with Saints. True to her Sankalpa, Beloved Papa brings various saints to visit the Ashram from time to time.

Revered Swami Padmanabhanandaji, the General Secretary of Divine Life Society, visited Anandashram from the 28th to the 30th of January along with 3 devotees.

Upon his arrival, he was welcomed by all in the Ashram and later taken to the Bhajan Hall and the Samadhi Mandirs.

During the Satsang sessions, he spoke about the glory of the Divine Name, Guru-Shishya relationship and on Bhakti.

One of the striking points that he mentioned in one of the Satsang sessions was that we need to offer ourselves to the Lord as we are. We do not need to change our Swabhava or acquire anything new. Offering our Swabhava, just the way it is, with all love, devotion and dedication, in the right spirit, is itself enough. This brought to mind the words of Beloved Papa, "Surrender to God as you are. It is not that we must purify ourselves first and then go to Him. He must purify us. We must go to him as a child to its mother. If the child goes to her in a dirty condition, the mother does not turn it away nor ask it to come clean. She herself takes the child and bathes it clean. God is more loving than the earthly mother."

Swamiji and party left on the 30th of January, after lunch for Guruvayur.

IN MEMORIAM

Smt Rukmani Subramanian (aged 82) an ardent devotee of the Ashram from Mumbai was called by Beloved Papa on the 28th of February 2016. She was

suffering from heart problems.

Sri R Krishnananda (aged 75) was also called by Beloved Papa on the 28th of February 2016. He had been serving in the Ashram Bookstall for more than 4 decades. His work was always prompt and perfect. He was suffering from diabetes, and an injury incurred on the leg turned fatal. He was rushed to the hospital in Mangalore where he passed away a few days later.

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 February 2016 is 250 crores. The grand total of the Japa done so far now stands at 12500 crores.

FROM THE EDITOR

Life is like a journey. It is a movement from a sense of inadequacy and incompleteness to that of fullness and completion, which is in fact the fruition of life. This is the motivating factor behind all our thoughts, emotions and actions, at all stages of life, beginning

from childhood, adolescence, adulthood, to middle age and old age. Accordingly, the goals are also set and efforts are made to achieve them. Every time we reach a set goal, we find that a sense of incompleteness still lingers, and hence we feel the need to reorient and reset the goal itself. Thus the saga continues. However, at some point of time, when we happen to meet or hear about saints who are ever blissful, overflowing with loving kindness and contentment, exuding the aroma of unconditional love on all alike, we start getting an inkling of the real purpose of life, thus irresistibly being drawn towards those saints in whose life and mission we naturally evince keen interest.

Reflecting on the lives of these Mahatmas, we realize that the one singular factor that draws us all irresistibly towards them is their unique love, with which their sayings and doings are fully imbued. Gradually, we start realising that Love alone can bring about the sense of fullness and perfection in life. Love beautifies, ennobles and illumines life, and Love makes life gentle and sweet, finally culminating in the fruition of life, which is the realisation that LOVE is GOD.

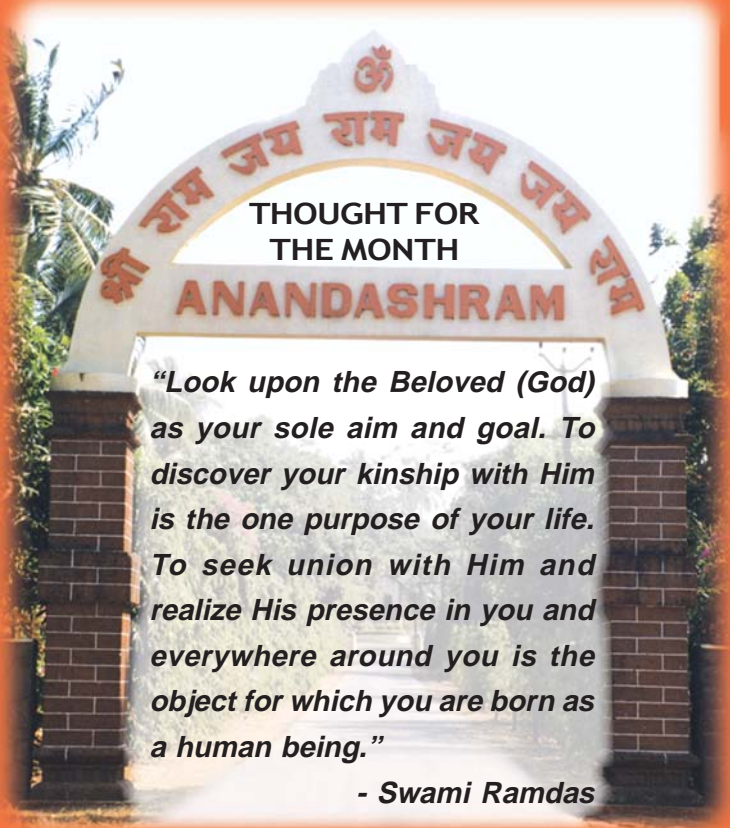
This month's issue of THE VISION highlights words of different Mahatmas on the true purpose of life.

— **MUKTANANDA**

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