■From the mighty pen of Sanjay

### **GREETINGS FROM GOD**

he festival of Dussehra symbolizes victory of good over evil. After Dussehra, follows the pious festival of Diwali. All the ceremonies performed on or before the day of Diwali, indicate the sacred faith that after the darkness of ignorance has ended and complete purity has been attained, Shri Lakshmi, the revered Goddess, visits this sacred land of Bharat.

Just as the prayers offered on the day of Janmashtami for the reincarnation of God – Sermoniser of Gita at the present time of irreligiousness are the proof that the God-Sermoniser actually incarnated, the invocation offered for Shri Lakshmi on the day of Diwali also are a sure proof that she actually ruled Bharat in the past and that, during her reign and afterwards, peace and prosperity actually prevailed because the souls of the Deities who took bodies in that epoch, had attained purity and enlightenment in their preceding life and got absoluteness on account of their past actions and had, therefore, taken new body (call it the dress of the soul).

#### Call of God-the Sun of Knowledge

God, the ever Lightful Being, says:—Dear Children! The history, as it is available in the human hands today, throws no light as to how the *Swarajya* (sovereign) of Shri Lakshmi and Shri Narayan, thousands of whose images are worshipped here, was established. Today, the biographies of Shri Sita and Shri Ram of *Tretayuga* are taught in Indian schools but the books of Shri Lakshmi and Shri Narayan who preceded Shri Sita and Shri Ram, are not available. Is it not a matter of great surprise to the dignitaries and the masses alike, that even when lacs of images and idols of Shri Lakshmi and Shri Narayan are daily worshipped, they do not know the biography of these deities?

If people and their leaders, Mahatma Gandhi, for example, knew these deities, they would have aspired for Shri Lakshmi and Shri Narayan's *Rajya* more than that of Shri Ram and Shri Sita because while the latter was characterised by fourteen celestial degrees, the former were deities virtuous to the pitch of sixteen celestial degrees complete.

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**EDITORIAL** 

# INNER PEACE & GLOBAL HARMONY

couple of weeks back the world was on course of a massive head-on collision, however wiser counsel prevailed amongst the leaders of Russia, China, USA, England and France, who are key players in the UN Security Council. They all agreed to persuade Syria to withdraw and destroy any missiles carrying chemical weapons. As Russia played a very pivotal role in these negotiations especially, Mr Vladimir Putin is being nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize for 2014 for "actively promoting settlement of all conflicts arising on the planet."

These are good signs that people have significant value for peace in their consciousness than one could imagine. At the present time, the search for peace is so deeprooted and consistent across races, religions, genders and age groups, that it re-affirms the innate need of human beings to live by, interact with and share peace. **This alone** 

builds the foundation for a calm mind, decisive intellect and pure sanskars (personality traits). The more peaceful the mind, the more powerful are the thoughts created for the self, and more positive thoughts for souls around us. This forms the basis for service on a subtle level as serene vibrations are dissipated which can influence the exclusive minds of those holding high positions in governments all around the globe. This will definitely lead to global harmony which is the need of the hour.

To speeden up the process of creating peace and harmony in the world, may humanity at large be guided by God's wisdom. God's wisdom is the most valuable available advice at this time of the cycle when He descends to guide humanity on the path of righteousness, peace and harmony.

Though we have a number of brilliant scholars in all parts of the world, we hold the leaders of different faiths in

reverence for their love and commitment to world peace and the experience of inner peace. This was evident when such divine leaders met at a Conclave at the Rashtrapati Bhawan on 21 September 2013. This was under the initiative of the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, well known as a global organisation for education in Spiritual Values, Meditation Practice and the aim of bringing peace to society at large. The Conclave was hosted and chaired by His Excellency, Mr Pranab Mukherjee, President of India. The following Press highlights Release prominent aspects of the event:

#### PRESS RELEASE

"No Religion Teaches Hatred & Violence. Bring Back Sanity & Spread Spiritual Values to Contain Violence"

Mr Pranab Mukherjee.

AHIMSA PARAMO DHARMA CAMPAIGN LAUNCHED FROM PRESIDENT'S HOUSE New Dolbi, Sont, 21, M

New Delhi, Sept. 21: Mr Pranab Mukherjee, President of India said that no religion had ever taught hatred and violence. All religious prophets had always practiced and preached love, compassion and selfless services.

He said that "no civilization is safe when the daughters, mothers and sisters in family and society are not protected. We have to sit back, reset our compass and bring back sanity to our life and society to end the current spate of violence in India."

He said that not mere enactment of law nor the force of governance can put an end to violence but collectively cultivating and spreading the spiritual values of peace, understanding, tolerance, self control, discipline and determination can contain violence.

He said this while launching the "All India Ahimsa Paramo Dharma **Awareness** Campaign" jointly being started by the Brahma Kumaris institution and various inter-faith groups, from Rastrapati Bhavan here today. He commended the efforts of the Brahma Kumaris and various interfaith leaders for taking such noble initiative of sensitizing people mobilizing collective support against violence in all forms.

Addressing an august gathering of about hundred gentry and opinion leaders from diverse backgrounds of religion, spirituality, sociology, jurisprudence, media and women organizations, Mr Mukherjee said that tolerance of violence has beget more violence and it is time that all religious, spiritual and interfaith leaders along with other government and nongovernmental organizations should join hands to work for ending the evils of violence.

L BANGANE L

Rajyogini Dadi Janki, Chief of Brahma Kumaris blessing the occasion with her words of wisdom said that a culture of peace, harmony and non-violence can be created through cultivation of truth, love, purity, patience and perseverance. For attaining this, she called for consistent practice and promotion of spiritual knowledge, human values raj-yoga and meditation.

Rajyogini Brahma Kumari Asha, Main Coordi-nator of the Campaign Committee ascribing violence in any form as a threat to peace and progress of individuals and society said that the Campaign aimed to provide a common platform for all concerned to make concerted efforts to curb the menace of growing violence in society with the ultimate objective of working for a violence free society.

Enumerating its basic objectives, she said that the Campaign would organize sensitization and training programs for families, students and citizens to create violence free and women friendly environment; to conduct comprehensive survey to get suggestions and support for the campaign; to help implementation of value education & character building programs; to enlist the services of media, likeminded individuals & institutions for promoting nonviolence and to support 'Ahimsa Messenger' Project launched by Govt. of India.

Dr Dominic Emanuel, Spokesman, Delhi Catholic Archdiocess urged to overcome evils and violence through goodness & love while Mr. B. N. Das, Vice-President of ISKCON called for cultivation of divine virtues like truth, peace and compassion as antidotes to violence.

Mr Mohd. Iqbal Mulla, Secretary, Jamaat-e-Islami Hind said that killing and violence in any form including female feticide were crimes against mankind & God.

Mr R. Sumiththananda, Bhikkhu-in-Charge, Mahabodhi Society of India pledged full support to this Campaign which he described as a noble initiative to spread the spirit and culture of peace, love and non-violence in the country.

Prominent among other Delhi.

interfaith leaders who also offered their greetings on the occasion were Dr A K Merchant from Bahai Community and Mr E I Malekar, Priest & Secretary, Judah Hyam Synagogue, New Delhi.

#### INNER PEACE & GLOBAL HARMONY

The people of Bharat are delighted after the bountiful monsoons which have been experienced for 3 months continuously. Parts of Bharat have been drenched, which is a good sign for the cultivation of a variety of crops and supply of drinking water alike.

As you read this, the festive season has begun with the installation of Goddess Durga's idols in almost all parts of India for Sharad *Navratri*, the most important of Navratris. It's a festival of rejoicing in accompaniment to music and dance, where children, grownups and even the elderly spend hours and hours dancing in large groups. In this age of commercialization, renowned artistes are engaged and booked out for the Garba Raas, so that everyone can dance to the rhythm of rich music and modernized garba songs.

There are some states like Gujarat, Rajasthan, Delhi, Haryana, UP, West Bengal, Maharashtra and even some South Indian states where not just the Gujarati community but all members of the local community enjoy their participation in these festivities.

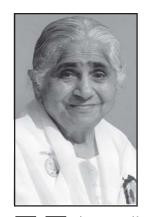
From a wider angle, it's a festival of national integration, or better yet, emotional integration when families spend 10 days together in such a joyful atmosphere. It's very invigorating festival for all the participants even from a health point of view where the youngsters enjoy their time, especially dancing tirelessly with elaborate, fashionable attire and jewellery.

In fact, **Navratri** marks the beginning of the festive Indian season because, as is known, **Dasshera** comes on the 10th day with the symbolic destruction of evil to mark

supremacy of goodness or victory of truth over falsehood. Very descriptive and engaging mythological stories are connected with Navratri and Dasshera, followed by a period of 20 days after which we have the most auspicious festival of **Deepawali**, Festival of Lights that is celebrated with intoxication in every home of India, and by Indians wherever they may be in any part of world.

Such sincere mark of respect for our ancient festivals will definitely pave the way for newness, success and spiritual prosperity. We wish all our readers, and their families and friends, a month of infinite serenity and joy, but most importantly a time of sharing our inner treasures and welcoming everyone into our hearts filled with love and togetherness!

-B.K. Nirwair



# CELEBRATE THE TRUE DIWALI BY BEING ALWAYS HAPPY



- Dadi Janki, Chief of Brahma Kumaris

aving travelled on this highest spiritual path, should be proficient in using the knowledge to dispel darkness and bring light in our life and speaking with that authority of experience. It is when knowledge is spoken on the basis of experience that others understand the truth. We must ask ourselves: is there still the darkness of worry and confusion in our lives? Actually, what can I possibly be worried or confused about now? The method to remove worry is to become a wellwisher for all and thus stop using the mind and wasting our time thinking about things in the wrong way.

The cause of all sort of negative and waste thinking is that sorrow is hidden deep inside and it emerges in the form of wrong thoughts. It is not a big thing to let go of harmful food and drinking habits but the habit of giving and taking sorrow are stuck in the soul. Now check: 'Am I taking sorrow from anyone?' If I take sorrow, I will need to think a lot. As a result, both my body and mind will suffer. We have promised to Baba that our body, mind and wealth belong to Him. If I take sorrow, I will definitely want to give it back to someone. When I speak about what has happened, there will be bitterness rather than sweetness in my voice. Once I open and walk through the door of taking sorrow, it is difficult to go back.

### Celebration of True Diwali

Now, celebrate the true Diwali by finishing sorrow and pledging to remain happy. Check that there is no trace of sorrow lurking anywhere inside me. If we keep allowing sorrow in our lives, it is as if we get flooded with better memories and the lights go out. Things will come; there will be storms—ups and downs but it must be

remembered that God Shiva (Shiv Baba) has told me to remain detached and to keep Him as my companion. We need to remain beyond negativity, immune whatever happens; an observer of the drama and of all the souls playing their parts in it. If I become influenced or fluctuate, I will not be able to remain a detached observer. If I need to call out to God Shiva, it is because I have not paid attention.

# Surrender to Shiv Baba at Diwali

This is the festival of light... the time to dispel all darkness. There will be no sorrow in the Golden Age. Am I with God Shiva in establishing that age of truth? If not, I need to learn to take pride in being the one who does not take or give sorrow. Whoever comes near me should feel the vibrations of my Godly remembrance. For this it is not a matter of asking God to stay in my company, but from my side there should be interest to be

in His Company. If I don't have interest, what can He do?

We also need to keep checking our drishti (vision) and attitude. God has shown us the contrast between having a degraded intellect and pure and clean intellect—one which does not think wastefully. So, I must deeply understand every aspect of the Eternal World Drama and in this way I need to keep my line clear. I need to accumulate so much power that I am able to silence the minds of others. People could not speak of anything negative in front of Brahma Baba. If I keep my mind pure, I will surely feel God's power. There needs to be a lot of discipline within the self to control the senses and to become victorious over them.

None wants to miss out on the opportunity to create his or her fortune. Therefore, great care must be taken that we do not lose out in any way through our own carelessness. I must remain aware, for it is in my own hands to create my fortune. One may be sweeping the floor but one needs to ask oneself: who am I doing this for? However, one may be doing great service but if one thinks about people in the wrong way or speaks harshly to them, one loses everything. Our main duty is to smile and be present for service. It is the power of love and co-operation that brings success in service. This is a family; all are my soul brothers and sisters; this must be the vision. The light of our awareness must be fully lit this Diwali.

# AT THE HOLY FEET OF GOD....

- Chitra Rola, Mumbai

Father of all souls, dear God, be my guide
Under your loving care alone, let me pride
Enlighten and grace me, broaden my vision
Let me embrace love, surpassing each division.

I find in Your eyes, all stars, Sun and Moon
And gift to all—solidarity, purity and boon
Radiating beams of peace, happiness and bliss
In Thy warm glow of love, nothing is amiss.

"Search beauty within"—You command, all the while Bring cheer to sullen minds, gift them smile Your face reflects my qualities, and smile broad And looking at you they see, smiling face of God.

My child, you'll feel happiness and bliss untold Burning all impurities, changing you to real gold Enchanting your heart, rejoicing you—the soul Then certainly you'll achieve each noble goal.

If you want to live in harmony, bliss and chord
In silence, listen to the tranquil voice of Lord
To a different plane you'll find yourself transferred
Reposing and rejuvenating, in each placid word.

If you want Him to nudge you and lead your way Surrender unto Him, your swagger and sway Then one shall find you in God's arms curled His warm touch of blessings will change your World.

# **DEEPAWALI - CELEBRATION OF PERFECTION....**



- B. K. Jabeen Dodani Mahtani, Kualalumpur, Malaysia.

eepavali or Diwali, popularly known as the "festival of lights," is a fiveday Hindu festival which starts on Dhanteras, celebrated on the thirteenth lunar day of Krishna paksha (dark fortnight) of the Hindu Calendar month Ashwin and ends on Bhaidooi, celebrated on second lunar day of Shukla paksha of the Hindu calendar month Kartik. Dhanteras usually falls eighteen days after Dussehra.

No other festival unites the Indians around the world, as does Deepavali. A single diya or earthen lamp holds infinite beauty and hope. While we celebrate these auspicious days with the same grandeur as seen in the past, the pure beliefs held by our ancestors were more enlightening. Deepavali or Diwali is a celebration of victory of good over evil and the coming of a New Year. But if we probe further, what is this darkness we want to remove? In reality, evil or darkness has no identity of its own – it exists due to lack

goodness or light. of Knowledge, power and all that is pure-are our very real characteristics, since they are part of us, perhaps dormant yet existing. The Festival of Lights, incidentally seen in every culture, is the fight against evil forces and creation of peace and happiness. Diwali conjures up a number of things in the mind's eye-sweets, new clothes, new accounts books, Goddess Lakshmi, earthen lamps, fireworks etc.

We begin with Dhanamyodashi, where families worship Dhanvantari, special a ayurvedic herb said to cure a person of all illnesses. As science also proves, about 98% of all diseases are psychosomatic, meaning their problem lies in the mind. With time and circumstances, human beings have lost a great degree of their inner power, thus making them vulnerable to attacks from the vices (lust, anger, greed, attachment and ego). The weak mind has affected the body also but when we take the medicine of spiritual knowledge, prescribed by the Ultimate Doctor, i.e., God, we can cure both mind and body.

The second day is celebrated as Nark-Chaturdashi. Spiritual Knowledge about Self-realisation, Godrealisation etc. can only be taught by The Supreme. Diwali, the tradition of lighting diyas, actually describes how the Supreme Light comes to re-ignite our awareness of being points of energy or souls. This knowledge is used to overcome the foreign elements of vices. In memorial of these efforts, we have the story of Narkasur, the destroying evil.

The third day is spent in invoking Goddess Lakshmi. Today, we have unfortunately lowered the status of Lakshmi Devi to that of a banker. In reality, her name stems from the word, 'Lakshya' meaning 'the goal', implying that she stands for the ultimate goal of perfection that the human beings can reach. The 'wealth' that she has to offer is of knowledge and virtues; a divine character alone can attain prosperity (material and otherwise) and peace. Homes are cleaned thoroughly in her honour, but we forget that a clean mind and intellect are the easiest way to attract her.

On this festival, we light a

lamp that shouldn't go off. It should be lit throughout the night, likewise knowledge/ awakening that we receive about who we are, should always be lit. We are beings of light (Atma). In order to keep this light burning, we keep adding oil, that is, the knowledge we receive from the Supreme. On our journey of life, we come in contact with others and perform our roles which bring us into bodyconsciousness. By listening to spiritual knowledge every day, we once again remind ourselves of our true identity so that we remain on right path.

The houses that we live in are the same old houses, but people tend to renovate or paint them just before Deepavali. They buy new clothes, crockery etc. This is a symbol of the new age that is about to come where nothing of this old world-order will remain; everything will be new.

The world will be new, nature will be pure, and our body will be perfect.

As soon as I light the light within me, there will be cleanliness, there will be transformation within us of our *sanskars* and then automatically, our

relationships with others will also get transformed for the better. When relationships become better, it means by enlightening my inner light, I have ignited the light of others too.

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Goddess Lakshmi is known as the goddess of wealth. Wealth of knowledge brings physical wealth also. If we fill ourselves with knowledge, we will attain success. We will become contended, satisfied. Our relationships with others will be good and this way we will be successful in our careers also.

Cleaning up our homes in order to invoke Goddess Lakshmi is to clear our minds and intellects so that the knowledge of wealth automatically comes in and the world becomes a perfect place.

Whilst performing rituals during this auspicious occasion, we should keep our mind and intellect clean and pure. Remain in connection with the Supreme Being. By being connected to the Ocean of Purity, it becomes easier for us to be pure.

We always draw the *Swastika* symbol when we are about to do our prayers. It is always divided into four equal parts which symbolize the four ages that the world cycle

undergoes (Golden, Silver, Copper and Iron), i.e., Satyug, Tretayug, Dwapuryug and Kaliyug. *Swa* means 'my own'; *Sthiti* means stage. Our stage at this time is depleted because we are at the end of Kaliyug or Iron Age. The *Swastika* is also a sign of the destroyer of obstacles. We can become once again what we were because when you are in the awareness of your true self, no obstacles can come in your way.

During this festival, we also exchange gifts. The best gift we can give is to share the knowledge we have attained today. All other materialistic gifts get perished or forgotten but knowledge, when shared with others, helps to transform and that is the most precious gift one can give.

Families get together and celebrate this occasion. They harmonize their relationships. They forgive and forget. There is excitement and enthusiasm of newness.

Moving to the fourth day of Balipratipada, we see success at every step when we maintain connection with the Supreme Soul. In spirituality, this is symbolic of yoga or union. When I visualise myself as a point of light, and then direct my intellect and thoughts to the Supreme Parent, I experience God's power and love. This power helps me fight weaknesses and inculcate virtues.

The beautiful process of gaining knowledge, overcoming vices, cleaning the intellect and remembering the Supreme Being leads us to appreciate the fifth day, Bhaiyadooj or Bhaidooj. The knowledge of the 'soul' frees us from stereotypes and prejudices based on religion, caste, colour, gender and age. We then see every individual as being a child of God and so part of my spiritual family— the ultimate truth.

Sweets (maintaining loving relationships), new clothes (discarding everything old, as old sanskars etc.), new accounts books (settling *karmic* accounts), fireworks (burning the evil off) and other interesting rituals prepare us spiritually for the New Year or Age. The darkness of ignorance cannot stay for long; our deep desire to create a world of happiness will become a reality. The key lies in lighting a single 'diya'-my own spiritual awareness-and then....

'Jyot se Jyot Jagaate chalo, Prem ki Ganga Bahaate chalo...' One light enlightens many others and then the river of love starts flowing.

So, on this Deepavali, let us be 'LIGHT'.

# CELEBRATE DIWALI IN A NOVEL WAY

- B.K. Rashmi, Simdega (Jharkhand)

Celebrate this Diwali in a novel way Evoking the soul-consciousness lamp Prosperity and blessings shower everyday No eye gets cloudy or damp.

Diwali is the festival of zest and zeal Happiness, Light, Joy and positive feel!

But today soul-lamps of all are now blown out Once Golden Sparrow, Bharat a pauper no doubt

Even in daytime, millions of lives today are gloomy Unemployment, Ignorance, have made them rheumy.

Shri Lakshmi on Lotus-seat, sulks with us today Worship remains a mere symbol, its soul cast away.

Human ego has touched a new peak Who's there to redeem us, whom do we seek?

New calamities are approaching on daily basis Sorrowful souls, everywhere, thirsty of an oasis.

When all need to sweep plains of their own mind Then descends God Shiva—'star most brilliant', kind.

He removes darkness and gloom, brightens each direction

By lighting the lamp of souls, fills purity and perfection

Thus with an enlightened state, celebrate Diwali everyday

Hail the kingdom of Shri Lakshmi-Shri Narain all the way

Every mind will be clean; healthy will be body Each dwelling will be full—abundant and plenty

Love-flame not to flicker, shine ever brightly Light of mind will twinkle, merrily and sprightly

Let's celebrate Diwali in a novel way Evoking the soul-consciousness lamp Prosperity and blessings shower everyday No eye gets cloudy or damp.

# THANKS, MY GRACIOUS LORD!

- B.K.Vithal Pingali, C.S., Visakhapatnam.

aba is the ocean of bliss and knowledge. As this soul attempts share his beautiful experiences in the Company of the Lord, he finds himself incapable of uttering even a single word. One sits, wondering how the great poets and writers could so fluently sing His glory in the throes of devotion. I remember God's infinite grace and a tiny tear drop silently leaves my eyes, to join the waves of joy in His

Thank You, Thank You, Thank You! This is one phrase that I can confidently and continuously express.

It is said that if you believe with determination, then the Belief turns to Trust; as one trusts the almighty, then he opens himself to Experience; once a soul has experience, then he knows. He no longer needs to believe, but becomes Knowledgeful. The only way you can share my experience of Baba is to experience it yourself. There is a lovely word in Hindi, 'Anubhuti', which means cognition,

perception or realisation! As we play the game of life through our mind and intellect, we go through many stages-Imagination, Visualisation and Realisation. Imagination is where we create something fictitious, which does not exist; Visualisation is one step further, where we bring something before our eyes, a deeper stage of experience; Realisation is where we become fully aware of something as a fact, live it. I have come to understand that Rajyoga is the only way one can see and realise God, the Truth and oneself.

I had lived a large part of my life searching for God in temples and scriptures, chanting mantras performing elaborate rituals in the hope that one day his grace would shower on me. travelled to several pilgrimage places, waiting in long queues for a darshan of the temple deity. Somehow, there was always this feeling, as I went through the ups and downs of life, that there was someone who was taking care of me all the time, who was watching me, guiding me, even before I started following the Brahma Kumaris. In the midst of a difficult career path and during death of family members, situations cropped up which I could neither understand nor handle ... there was a silent hand around my shoulders, a calming presence making itself present whenever I was alone. Now I know it was my Baba, who was always with me and was smiling at this long lost child who was wandering in ignorance.

It was in 2008, when I was working for a software Company in Hyderabad, Andhra Pradesh, India, away from my family which was in Visakhapatnam (or Vizag). I stayed in an Executive Hostel with other forced Bachelors and visited home once every month. But due to problems at work and being away from my family, I used to be somewhat quiet. One morning, as I was doing some yog-asanas, a cohosteller, Devanand suggested that I learn Rajyoga at a nearby Centre and gave me directions, mentioning that I would benefit from it. That evening, I walked into the Nagarjuna Management Centre, Panjagutta, Hyderabad and registered myself for a life changing experience! After

completing the Seven-Day course, I used to spend a lot of time meditating. Soon, I started visiting the centre, both in the morning and evening.

One evening, it was raining heavily and I was waiting at my hostel gate to go to the Centre. In a lighter vein, I thought that if Baba wanted me to come to Him, He would make the necessary arrangements. Within a minute or so, another co-hosteller who took Gyan a few days ago, came down with an umbrella and asked me if I would accompany him to the Centre. I was astounded and walked all the way singing praises of Baba and His unfathomable love for His children.

Another day, at home in Vizag, I mentioned about the Brahma Kumaris organisation to my better half and started giving her the introduction of Paramdham, our sweet home and Baba. Strangely, as I was speaking, she closed her eyes and went into a deep trance. She later said that she could actually feel that she was there and experienced a sense of tranquility. Shortly thereafter, she took the course in the Maharanipeta Centre, Vizag. and became Baba's child. This was a great boon for me, as it is very necessary that husband

and wife both follow this knowledge, if they wish to have perfect harmony in the family. Otherwise they face certain challenges, if one of them continues to be in *loukik* way of life. Baba had blessed us to take up the Rajyoga path together and benefit from it. Moreover, our two sons also started taking keen interest in spiritual study.

After another few months, I was at a crossroads in my career and had to take a decision regarding my employment. (I am a Company Secretary, a professional qualification, specializing in Corporate Laws, which can be used to take up either employment or practice). As I placed my problem before Baba and sat in meditation, I felt a direction to quit my job and take up independent practice. I immediately resigned from my job and returned to my loukik family in Visakhapatnam. My parents, wife and children were pleased to see me back with them. By Baba's grace, I have been rendering consultancy services to Corporate Clients for more than four years and have always been contented in every possible way. I also find time to do spiritual service, since my timings are flexible, being in independent practice, reporting to Baba and no one else.

I have illustrated above a few instances where Baba has helped me, in organizing my personal, domestic and professional life in an effective manner. But, once a soul becomes Baba's adopted child, a Brahma Kumar or a Brahma Kumari, the benefits which it reaps are multimillion fold and cannot be expressed or explained in detail. Every moment of the day, there are subtle signs, gentle hints and caring nudges from Baba, guiding us, directing us and supporting us in our journey to make ourselves perfect. When we become his children, then along with Baba, even drama becomes our friend and helps us. Favourable situations start developing around us, the vast Brahmin family starts giving us blessings and co-operation, life becomes simpler and We slow down, easier. become quiet and relax into the silence that is our original state of being. Our natural stage emerges, just like water settles down at the bottom of the mountain, we stop running and become restful, we come home to our beloved Father, we start transforming into divine deities, creating heaven on earth ... Om Shanti.

# MY QUESTIONS, HIS ANSWERS

- B. K. Reena, Chembur, Mumbai

t was the end of the year 2007 as I faced a challenging period on my personal front. The world was awaiting a New Year but my world had almost come down crashing. Mydreams, aspirations and hard work had all gone down the drain. Some of my so-called dear ones had left me stranded in the middle of my life. I was inconsolable so I visited Siddi Vinayak temple in Mumbai on my birthday, which I had been doing every year. I had not lost faith in God but I was not happy with Him either.

During those days, I kept calling Him and questioned: Why did you do this to me? Why is this world so full of sorrow? Why are we happy only sometimes? In my prayers, I even told Him with full authority that this is not the world that I want to progress in; you either make a better world or show me an exit door from this planet.

Believe me, He came!! During that period, I came across a programme 'Awakening with Brahma Kumaris' on Television. I heard, in the programme, a story that we are like children who have come to play our roles in this drama of life. Initially, we enjoy it as a game but as the day progresses, we get tired, hurt and become dirty (vicious). Then we go back home to our Supreme Parent, who love us, clean us up and again in the morning we are back in the game. The child here is the soul whose original home is Soul World and whose eternal parent is GOD. I could immediately relate to the story and this instilled in me some strength to move on.

I started the Seven-Day Rajyoga course at Brahma Kumaris centre in March 2008 and completed it on the Holi festival celebrations. Thereafter, I began watching the programme regularly on television, though I could not attend regular sessions at the centre. Fortunately, in May 2010, I was transferred to a place near my home which is also very close to the Brahma Kumaris centre in Chembur. There I started visiting them regularly while returning from my office.

Earlier, I did not understand much, but soon I found peace and stability returning in my life. I experienced that even when I did not wish to attend the classes, some energy would pull me to drive to the centre to listen to Godly versions, called *murli* (Flute of Knowledge). I never missed the *murli* and also got engaged with some small Godly service and attended various BK programmes. Slowly, I started getting my specific answers in *murlis* and got to know the deepest secrets of life.

The turning point came when I visited Mt. Abu, the International Headquarters of Brahma Kumaris. I was amidst the ocean of knowledge and love. Everyone had only one word in their heart and on their lips – BABA (God Shiva). Somewhere I knew I belong to this divine family. My life has started blossoming as I have found a gateway to the new world, instead of exit.

My friends, are you aware of Godly Knowledge being imparted by God Himself? This is the time when God Shiva comes to give us divine wisdom and gives answers to the most intricate questions of life. He is there to show you the right path in the bewilderment of life. He is ready with open arms at the nearest centre to accept you the way you are! God is here to cleanse all our dirt and dust of sins and evils accumulated over several births. Are you ready?

## THE EASY RAJYOGA TAUGHT BY GOD



- B.K. Surendran, Bangalore

emembrance is one of heart. the natural attributes of mind. The devotees who are in search of God remember Him constantly. Even as people of the world are searching for Him, the good news is that He Himself is teaching the souls Easy Rajyoga, i.e., the method to remember Him, revealing also the truth that He is the Father of all souls. His teachings convey the intrinsic knowledge that the soul is a micro star of consciousness which consists of mind, intellect, and resolves. By remembering God in His original form, the soul remains connected to Him in a natural way.

God communicates with us when we connect with Him with purity of heart. In the light of the spiritual knowledge that He reveals, we understand His real personality and also what He expects from us. We experience His blessings and His love. He is called Bholanath, the Innocent Lord the one who is easily pleased with an honest and truthful

### The sermons of the Lord and their impact

When we listen to Him, meditate on Him and spend time in His remembrance, a series of unprecedented changes take place in our life. We are naturally overtaken by an inner urge to surrender ourselves to God and give all our burdens to Him. It is said that remembrance begets remembrance. His directions that we should remember Him alone, remind us very often to think of His revelations consistently.

### **Self-Empowerment** through Godly Knowledge

Meditation fills the practitioners with His powers and light; they feel His presence. He guides, directs and encourages them to perform tasks diligently. His love transforms obstacles into blessings. Thereby, unburden ourselves and the joy of complete Fulfillment, Happiness, Peace and Contentment becomes the essence of our being. The mind and the intellect always like to stay with Him; there is a feeling of His closeness and proximity. His company influences us, as we are able to experience His qualities. When we meditate, we simply sit in the awareness of God as a being of light who resides in the world of eternal silence. As we focus our attention on the Supreme Being, we are filled with the purest love and peace. Therefore, yoga means remembering the original self and the original relationship with the Supreme Being.

Normally people try to practise yoga by concentrating mind on an object. But here the yoga is taking place between two conscient entities - the soul which is a star of consciousness and God who is also a point of Supreme consciousness - the child and the Father coming together in loving countenance on the basis of natural, perennial and eternal relationship. This allows peace to flow within our being, energizing us and leading us to stability of mind.

### **Self-Sovereignty through** Rajyoga

Stable mind is always under the command of the master the self or soul. Therefore. yoga with God equips us to confidently be in the world of action-active, busy outside,

(Contd. on page no. 32)

# WHAT ATTRACTED ME TO BABA'S LOVE!



- Silpa, Bangalore

ince my early childhood days, I have always been surrounded by Brahmins. Our neighbours and friends were all from Brahmin families. So, naturally I had a very strong inclination towards their rituals and customs. As a child, I liked learning *shlokas* and worshipping deities; lord Ganesh was my favourite deity. I loved everything about Brahmin priests (Purohits)-the way they dressed, their hair, their tilak and the way they chanted the mantras. I secretly yearned to become like them but would be disappointed, realising that I was a girl, though I never spoke about it in the open as I thought everybody would make fun of me.

My family wanted me to be a doctor as my father was a doctor. I fulfilled their wishes and became a dentist. But that dream of being with Almighty always remained with me. The stories of Meerabai and Akkamaha Devi would inspire me to be like one of them. However, I was not sure how to do it. But so it happened that the mother of one of my friends was an ardent follower of Shiv Baba and His Shrimat in spite of all the hardships in their family. Since I was very close to her daughter, most of the time I was at their home. One day. her mother introduced me to the true knowledge of God Shiva, i.e. Shiv Baba and told me the truth about my true self - 'I am a soul, not this costume called body'. She spoke of how the soul leaves the body after death and it is eternal. This struck a chord with me instantly.

I earnestly undertook the formal study of the divine Knowledge. My friend showed me the book 'One-Week Course'; therein was a picture of Sri Krishna sailing with people in one boat and Brahma Baba with a few others in white dress in another boat. She asked me to pick up one. As I thought Krishna to be the Lord, I picked him. My

friend laughed and told me that I would not be able to come to heaven. This disturbed me a lot and made me think what sin I had committed for not becoming eligible for heaven. Her mother later explained that if we followed what Shiv Baba tells us, we would all be able to come to heaven. This had a lasting impression on my young mind.

Since I was very close to them, sometimes I would stay overnight with them. Her mother would wake up for Amritvela, sit in Baba's room and do Yoga while all others would be asleep. I would also sneak into the Meditation room and sit for yoga along with her. While meditating, I would always feel as if I was in the cradle of Almighty. I would chat with Him about anything and everything, just like one speaks to a friend. From then on, He has been my dearest and most beloved and most trusted Friend and Companion from whom I hide nothing.

Whenever I sit with Baba, I forget about this world and its pain, agony and distress. I find myself in a world of divine peace, serenity, innocent love and happiness— a feeling which cannot be explained in words. One needs to experience it. The visits to the

Brahma Kumaris centre, its vibrations, the Brahma Bhojan–everything has been an enriching experience and has made me come closer to Baba.

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One thing more that attracted me towards Baba was the realization that He loves me as a soul, my true self, not as a physical body. My tryst with Baba continues, along with all other physical karmic accounts. The dream that I nurtured since my childhood-of being with God-is now a reality. I am thankful to Shiv Baba for selecting me as His child. Being Baba's child means following His Shrimat – at all times and in all circumstances. That, of course, is my aim which I would achieve with determination.

The reminiscence always rekindles in me a new zeal to strive harder to attain the ultimate goal of being COMPLETE AND PERFECT BRAHMIN OF THE CONFLUENCE AGE.

Seven dangers to Human
Virtue; Wealth without
work; Pleasure without
conscience; Knowledge
without character;
Business without ethics;
Science without
humanity; Religion
without sacrifice; Politics
without principle.

- GANDHI

# CREATIVITY - THE MUSIC OF LIFE

- Poonam Singh, Delhi

At times when we feel crest-fallen, all alone
As if in an infinite abyss fiercely thrown
One spark of creativity in our heart as it crops
Can take our mood to the highest mountain tops.

The regime of Creativity is very broad
It can take us wherever we want to plod
You are welcomed here with an open mind
Freely express yourself without grind.

It's a blessing when you are feeling down
A companion when nobody is around
It can make you sing, dance or paint
It will not let music of your life to faint.

Without it Life becomes colourless and bland
It remains stagnant unable to expand
Only Creativity gives you strength
It takes you to greater breadth and length.

As a true friend it never leaves

Most subtle mysteries it perceives

It gives you confidence, adds new gems

And gives your life, fruits and stems.

It's the best way of approaching your Lord
By doing your duties, unwinding twisted cords
Creativity never binds you in any trap
But always puts something fruitful in your lap....

### SAKASH – GOD'S UNLIMITED POWER FILLED WITH BLESSINGS

- B. K. Khem Jokhoo, Trinidad

*akash* can be described as a subtle powerful cur rent of light and might that contains all powers and virtues to refresh the soul to its original powerful state. It is God's divine, unconditional pure feelings of power-filled spiritual love in the form of rays of spiritual energy that emanates from Him as blessings for His children. Sakash contains God's special powerful vibrations that can heal all the wounds, mend broken hearts and refresh distressed souls provided there is unconditional faith, honesty and obedience to God. Sakash is your own personal canopy of spiritual protection from the evil forces of the world.

# Characteristics and Powers of Sakash

The source of all *Sakash* is God. *Sakash* is pure powerful energy that is transmitted through pure thoughts in the form of vibrations or pure feelings (*Shubh Bhavna*) either through the intellect or the eyes. **These pure vibrations contain all the innate virtues as well as the powers of the soul**. The main virtues are purity,

peace, love, happiness, truth, bliss and power. The eight main powers are the power to pack up waste thoughts, to tolerate, to accommodate, discriminate, judge, face, cooperate, and to withdraw.

The Power of Sakash is such that it can change the attitudes and transform the depressed, degraded or lonely souls, giving them instant love, power and purity. The one who is able to access and receive Sakash can attain an instant spiritual lift and become peaceful and contented. It is also possible for the lost or searching souls to get self-realization as well as God's realization in a second. With Sakash, a soul can be liberated from having to labour to achieve constant success. Difficult things become easy and impossible things become possible. Success is certain and becomes your birthright. Just as the sun rays have seven incognito colours as displayed by the rainbow, so too Sakash has all the powers, virtues and nutrients necessary to restore the soul's original qualities and original strength. Therefore a 'disquiet soul' on receiving Sakash directly from God or even through a powerful yogi is able to transform itself and experience peace and contentment. In other words, the vilest sinner on receiving Sakash can be transformed into a divine person. Sakash can change anything bad into something good.

# How to get *Sakash* and attain Self-Sovereignty?

One must first have selfrealization through the knowledge of the soul, the history of the Eternal World Drama and the awareness of God. Using this knowledge, transformation can take place by making effort to do everything in soulconsciousness and in the remembrance of God. This is the practice of a karma yogi. Constant effort is required to practise purity in thoughts, words and actions. To achieve purity in thoughts, the soul must aim to have complete control of the mind, intellect and sanskars or resolves. Only a self-sovereign soul can receive or give Sakash to others.

# How to Purify and have Control of the Sanskars

The soul should also have complete control of the sanskaras or resolves both while awake or asleep. Pure incorporeal thoughts, egoless words, vice-less actions as

well as service with selfless motivation burn and remove negative karmas accumulated in this lifetime. Deep intense meditation, yoga or penance removes and settles negative karmas accumulated from previous births. When the sanskars are made pure through constant self-effort and with the help of God's divine energy, there can be no influence  $\mathbf{of}$ anv past weaknesses to the mind or intellect even in dreams.

# Preparing the Intellect to receive *Sakash*

The intellect must always be pure, divine, pristine clean and clear to receive the touching or to catch powerful energy of God's Sakash. To be clear means never to have the slightest trace of waste, idle, negative or even ordinary thoughts. To prepare and maintain a clear and clean intellect, one must always be in soul-consciousness maintaining an angelic stage and an angelic form even when performing actions. The mind, intellect and resolves must be in complete harmony.

# Slowing down of thoughts to receive Sakash

The soul must experience a deep inner silence. This means that the speed of thoughts must be reduced to a single powerful thought linked with the Supreme Soul and merged

in His love. This is the condition when the soul can receive pure *Sakash* to improve its own stage, to remove obstacles or to help other souls in bondage of *Maya* or matter.

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#### **Description of** Sakash

Sakash has unlimited subtle properties, powers and healing attributes. Sakash cannot be seen with the physical eyes but it can be felt and experienced. It is a subtle energy. There is an aura of calm that pervades the atmosphere and creates a 'sobering assuring silence' as though a guardian angel is spreading an invisible canopy of protection over you. The feeling is refreshing and the soul feels powerful and free from bondage.

### How one receives Sakash from God

Sakash is received when one is in deep yoga and there is no influence, attraction or awareness of the body, bodily relations, nature or physical mundane matters, where the intellect is still and totally surrendered in all loving relationships with God. The soul becomes merged in love with the Father. It is as though God, the Eternal Surgeon, is examining the intellect and attending to the needs of the soul by removing even the subtle traces of impurity. The Sakash received is discerned into thoughts of elevated Godly directions or Shrimat. There are not many thoughts to confuse you. If there were weaknesses that you are trying to remove without success, God gives that additional power to burn those weaknesses making you lighter in spirits. However the soul must always be honest in all relationships with God and must be obedient in following His Shrimat.

#### An Analogy of Sakash

The one who receives Sakash has the same feeling as when a child is lovingly embraced by a mother. It amounts to pure unconditional love. The child feels a special canopy of protection and all fears disappear immediately. This is the same feeling you get when God embraces you and is your constant companion. There is a feeling of assurance that someone is near you, sitting and watching over you. There is also a sense of security that nothing can harm or hurt you. There is that feeling of loving comfort. Just as the child 'smells' the mother's natural loving and caring fragrance, similarly, you make connection with God, you feel completely carefree as all the troubles of the world have gone.

(Contd. on next issue)

# THE PRACTICE OF LOVE AND COMPASSION – A ROAD TO HAPPINESS

- BK Dr. Pran Rangan, Kanpur

OVE-a primary emotion-has been variously defined by many. A small child, when it develops some understanding, often hears this word. So, we all use the word 'love' with different connotations whenever we use it.

It is quite difficult to define love clearly. Some confuse it with infatuation or lust. Philosophers have expressed love as an action or experienced it as a feeling. Love encompasses Kindness, respect tolerance, endurance and understanding. But most of us love others because we expect something in return from them. Today, most of the relationships are based on this interpretation of love. This is conditional love, which says that our expectations are not fulfilled or reciprocated and then we will stop loving.

However, true love is unconditional. True love is something from which you do not expect anything in return. It is when you give without any intention of receiving in return. If you cannot love another person without attaching conditions this amounts to "emotional bribery." You are not talking about love at all; you're talking about a transaction.

COMPASSION—another primary emotion has also been understood differently and, therefore, defined differently. Compassion involves feeling moved by others' suffering so that your heart responds to their pain. The word compassion literally means to "suffer with". When this occurs, you feel warmth, caring, and the desire to help the suffering person in some way.

According to Buddhist concept, compassion is a state of mind that is motivated by valuing other human beings and wishing to release them from their sufferings. Although we already have some degree of compassion, at present it is very biased and limited. When our family and friends are suffering, we easily develop compassion for them

but we find it far more difficult to feel compassion for people we find unpleasant or for the strangers.

The two primary emotions Love and Compassion are interlinked with each other. Love always carries compassion with it and compassion finds expression when someone you love undergoes a suffering. They are basically inherent in our nature but we find it difficult to practice them in life. If you have love and compassion towards all sentient beings, particularly towards your enemy, this is true love and compassion.

# To practice love and compassion we can follow the following tips –

▶ First of all, try to cultivate good thoughts for others, especially for those whom we dislike. Fill the heart with the warmth of Good feeling, that of Mercy and Forgiveness, and let go all the past bitterness, we can also connect to God, the Almighty Power, who is an inexhaustible source of divine energy. During our daily meditation, we can tap into His source of love and compassion. The Almighty Power will be readily willing to feel us with His powers and virtues.

- ▶ When others hurt you, just remind yourself that they are just like me. They have their own imperfections and insecurities and hence, they feel the need to defend and protect them. By repeatedly reminding this to ourselves, we will be able to empathise and understand them rather than being critical about them. Gradually, we will begin to commit to the feelings of unconditional love and compassion for self and others.
- ▶ We should remember that all souls are trying to play their best in this drama of life. Everyone is accurately playing out their parts and it is up to us how we respond to them as 'hurdles' or as 'teachers'. With this attitude, we will not label them with unfairness but will instead accept them.
- ▶ Have love for the eternal soul. As a family of human souls, we are children of one God. By considering others to be our brothers and sisters, we can maintain our vision of love and respect for others.
- ▶ When we maintain our state of soul consciousness, we are able to overlook the weaknesses and deficiencies of others and

are able to appreciate the hidden and the dazzling inner beauty of the soul. We see others as God sees them - beautiful tiny beings of lights obscured by their physical forms. To maintain this gift of unconditional love, we should connect the self to a source of higher power, God, to replenish the mind and heart with feelings of love and compassion. Always remember that The Almighty God never ceases to offer us His love His mercy His compassion and so we should follow Him.

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### Creating happiness through love and compassion –

The practice of love and compassion is a road to happiness. If one gives love and compassion to a person, one gets it back manifold. When we share feelings of love and compassion, first of all we create happiness and joy within us.

When we develop the self-awareness we are able to cultivate self-responsibility, i.e., we have the choice to choose the emotion that we express in each moment of our lives. When we have this level of self-awareness, the obvious choice is to express love because it is our basic nature.

It means that we can sit in a place of utter chaos, with the whole drama revolving around us, and yet not lose our peace and happiness. We create love through our thoughts, words and actions.

If we limit the expression of love and goodness, we limit the happiness and joy in our life. Being aware that we create our feelings and thoughts bring is a big shift in our lives as it helps us to achieve a natural state of selfmastery. There are no unnecessary thoughts – only thoughts of love, peace and compassion.

### FOCUS ON YOUR OWN PART

Despite appearances, people may be doing the best they can. Think that no one should be blamed, and humility in your attitude will enable everyone to move forward. Judge whether your thoughts, words and actions are beneficial to the scene in which you find yourself. Focusing on your own part is more useful than passing judgment on others.

### SPACE RACE - TO THE SOUL

(Are you a wall or a ball? Are you the carpenter or block of wood? Do you ever try and sail uphill in a glass boat? Are you a rocket man with a golden key around your neck? Can you think before you speak? Do you always think before you act? Are you as big and as bright as the sun? Is your world flat with many banks and shops? Are you sitting at God's table? Or are you starving to death? Are you such a good soldier that God salutes you?)



-B. K. David, Paignton, England

ow it's the space race – but the inner space race, is different from man's normal space race which has only ever found rocks and dust. For those who are curious as to the meaning of life or are searching for who they really are and what they are doing here on earth, where have they come from and where are they going, then this inner space race is one they just have to win. In God's race, there is no prize for coming second. If you wish to win God's race, you will need to become very fit. At the moment, man is only capable of winning moon dust and collecting rocks.

### What can you see? Darkness? Or truth and light? Do you see wood?

There is a whole new world beyond the world of rocks and dust and up until now, man has been blind to it. God shines a pure light into the vast darkness of our world so we can understand and see this approaching new world. We live in a world of darkness so how can we ever find anything of importance. We have become blind to truth and can only see falsehood, and believe that to be true. God comes to restore your sight so you can see truth easily. Many can only see people and rocks, but there are some who can see truth, spirituality and souls. Some can only see the wall (body) and some can see the ball (soul). Are you a wall or a living ball? Are you the body or soul? Are you the thinking being or just the body that can follow orders and fall over? Are you the carpenter who can sculpt and make a face out of wood or are you the block of wood? Are you the plank or the one who walks upon it?

# God only has one prize to give away - heaven

This inner race and journey is one in which you race to see how wonderful a person you can become. It is a race where the more virtues and qualities you have, the closer you become to winning this, the most important race of your life. It is a race as God has the stopwatch and is timing you. He knows in His wisdom that soon this space race and all other races are to finish. Yet it's this incognito Godly race's finish which is of the utmost importance as this will also signal the end of our human life of suffering and the start of a future divinity on earth.

## Are you running behind God?

When this race finally finishes, it will only be those who have crossed the finishing line in style and with a good time who will win the prize and be classed a winner by God. It is God who has all the medals and prizes in His pockets, so it is good to please Him and keep Him in mind and sight when running this unlimited space race in which you can win the world - a perfect world without a single problem. Everyone and

everything in this Godly prize is perfect. The ones with the most virtues and qualities win this race's highest prize heaven, plus a royal gift as well. God walks round with just the one prize in His pocket - that of heaven. Man walks round with a billion plastic prizes of hell weighing him down which you can win everyday. People become happy today on winning plastic prizes. If only they knew God was giving away heaven, happiness, virtue and peace in a world full of love every morning, His phone would never stop ringing and His email box would be forever full.

### In which competition have you entered? To win a holiday to Spain or to go to heaven?

Has there ever been throughout history such a prize as heaven that can be won? The most that can normally be won in life is £100.00, a car or holiday to Spain for two weeks. But in order to win this Godly prize, you'll need to know clearly from where this space race initially started. If you do not know the race's origins (from the world of light from where you came soul world) and why you are running it (meaning to life),

then you cannot win the race and claim your prize as you'll be a million miles away from hitting the target of truth. You shall not be worthy of receiving your gold medal from the race organiser. Strangely, the organiser has no organs.

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# Few in life can hit the target of truth. Are you one of them who can?

In life there are two kinds of people; those who can see and hit truth and those who can only hit and bang their head against the wall. Those who have truth and aim for truth. have a smile on their faces and look happy whilst those who are living a life of lies look unhappy and seldom smile. The only truth most seem to know and understand is the price of a loaf of bread, beer and the cost of petrol. How many people do you meet who know the truth of who they really are and from where they originally came? Most answer - I am from India, Africa, America; I am Hindu, Christian, European, English, tall, fat, thin, black, rich, poor or American. This is the outlook of most people on the planet and the planet is inhabited by very unhappy people. As I am sure as to what people think they are, I am also just as sure they are very unhappy.

# If your life is an uphill struggle.....

To think you can be truly successful and accomplished in life whilst still not knowing your true origin or the true self (the soul), is like being a person in a boat who expects he can travel in water that can go uphill. What would you say to the sailor sitting in his boat complaining that his boat cannot sail up hills? Most would walk away laughing; some would say: If you can sail in water that can run uphill, I will give you a million pound. If a person does not know who is steering his boat, then he is also expecting to sail up a hill. If someone does not know he is the soul sitting in his boat steering it, that he is the captain sailing and operating their body, then they really are trying to sail uphill. One day they may hopefully discover the error to their beliefs and thinking. Yet the world is full of those who think they can sail uphill, just as long ago there were those who thought the world was flat. This is to live and act in ignorance. Today, due to most trying to sail (live) up hill, they find themselves surrounded by stormy waters.

### Journey to the stars. You'll need to become a rocket (soul) man.

Some have decided to accept their invitation to the stars and undertake that incredible journey by being the soul-conscious rocket and follow God home. Only a special few who have a deep longing and special yearning and aim in their heart will have the courage and insight to want to go into 'this space' of the soul. It's because truth and peace once flowed freely within them that they feel they must now find its source. These few will realise that this mission is a one-off chance that will never come their way again. Few will in reality take up this journey as it soon becomes apparent to those who do, how difficult and demanding it is. The drop-out rate is immense as the qualifications and dedication needed to complete the mission is also immense.

Few have enough truth and courage within themselves that enables them to put down all their baggage and climb up God's ladder and claim a seat on His rocket to the stars - which later lands in heaven.

It's not an easy task to fly to these stars as you have to leave all your baggage behind which

includes everything you have ever owned, and that includes children, spouse, your body and of course, your wallet which out of everything should be the easiest possession to forget and leave behind yet for most is one of the hardest. Leaving your body, your habits, your family, your desires and old ways behind you is proving very unpopular and an impossible task as it's far too demanding for most souls as they have had them for so long and have grown much attached to them.

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The majority prefer a short journey down to the local supermarket and bank every day. They have a limited vision of life and so live in a limited world. God has made a rocket for them and it is on the launch pad and is ticking down to blast off with the door open and ladder down for them to climb onboard the ship. Yet most are too busy or just not bothered to make the effort to climb up and step onboard. For many it's proving to be either too big a step into the unknown and are lacking the ability and truth to let go of falsehood or they do not have the spirituality necessary to enter God's rocket and take a seat to the stars.

# Are you corrosive – and explosive?

Most people simply do not have the wisdom, foresight, insight or courage to fly into space and so find it much easier to run away from boarding the ship with one excuse or another. As is often the reason, they cannot let go of their worldly baggage and feel they have to cling on to it. They feel secure with the old at hand but do not realise it's this old baggage that is leading them further down hell's driveway. The truth is, they do not have the spirituality needed to fuel such a vast and lengthy trip into space where anything can happen. You need to have trust in the Pilot of this spacecraft and in His maps and wisdom. Without seeing Him or their destination or having a clear picture or under-standing of where actually they are going, for most it is a case of sticking to the familiar and what they know and can see - that is this world. They can only live by their two eyes and do not have the bravery or the love for truth to allow their third eye to open and guide them on an unknown journey into the stars of the future.

(Contd. on next issue)

### MIND YOUR STUDIES!



- B.K. Kavitha, Bangalore

ften God Shiva, i.e. Shiv Baba says that "You become a King when you pay complete attention towards your studies. The one who does not pay attention towards studies cannot become a king in the Golden Age even if one shares God's knowledge, does service through wealth and body; he may become a member of a royal family, but never a king!"

In the *laukik* life, the one who pays complete attention towards studies is the one who can obtain a high rank and only then his career can advance. Such students make sure that they study regularly and without any delay. They don't create thoughts such as "let's study from tomorrow", "let's when the exams approach", and so on. They neither sleep lazily nor spend time leisurely.

Similarly, in the *alaukik* life as well, the one who pays complete attention towards Godly studies, can only become a king in the future i.e., in the new world. Paying

attention means doing any homework given by Shiv Baba immediately. It may be noted that Godly Studies as taught by the Supreme Soul, God Father Shiva comprises of four subjects, viz. Knowledge, Meditation (Godly Remembrance), Inculcation of Divine Virtues and Godly Service. It also includes churning the knowledge imported by Him because it is only by churning that the knowledge can be inculcated by us.

It may be mentioned here that Mateshwari Jagdamba Saraswati, who is called Goddess of Knowledge, and lovingly called Mamma by Brahma Kumars and Brahma Kumaris, used to wait eagerly to listen to the Godly versions called Murlis (Flute of Knowledge), spoken by God Shiva through the Corporeal Medium of Prajapita Brahma Baba. And, when Baba was giving the knowledge, merely by listening, she would inculcate it and become embodiment of that. Therefore, she came first and became a pioneer.

God Shiva is the Ocean of knowledge. He is Truth and whatever he says is true. Nevertheless he asks us children to churn the knowledge. It's because, if we simply listen knowledge we won't be able to inculcate the knowledge. It is only when we churn Godly Knowledge; we can realize it to be true. It is only when we churn His Knowledge that we get convinced with whatever He says. And that is when it is possible to inculcate the knowledge. Say for example, Shiv Baba advises us to do early morning meditation. When I introspect on this then only I understand the benefits of amritvela, i.e. Nectar Time is the time when there is no when disturbance. atmosphere is completely peaceful; hence connecting to Baba becomes easy. Once when we get convinced with this, we start making effort to get up in the morning and make complete use of the time.

In the *laukik* life also, we cannot obtain 1<sup>st</sup> rank just by studying for a few hours. Similarly, if just by doing *purusharth* or making efforts towards the end, we can become a king then why the life span of the Confluence Age is of 100 years? Mamma

and Baba also made efforts consciously and continuously for a long time and became complete. Mamma would always think, "this is my last moment for making effort'. Sometimes, we think that we will be able to go fast at the last moment. But God Shiva says that only those who are engaged in making effort to became perfect over a long period of time claim the right to a kingdom for the full time.

In the *loukik* life, the one who pays complete attention towards studies is always ready to take up the test papers. They are not scared of tests or exams and are confident. Similarly, in the *aloukik* life also, the one who pays attention towards studies will never be scared of facing the papers, be it any type of paper, even if it comes in the form of old karmic account.

In the worldly studies, the one who pays attention towards them is able to identify the questions that are expected in the test paper and hence pay more attention towards those questions. Similarly, in the aloukik life also the one who studies regularly is able to identify the qualities that are required to become a king and pay more attention towards inculcating

those qualities. The following are the qualities of a king:

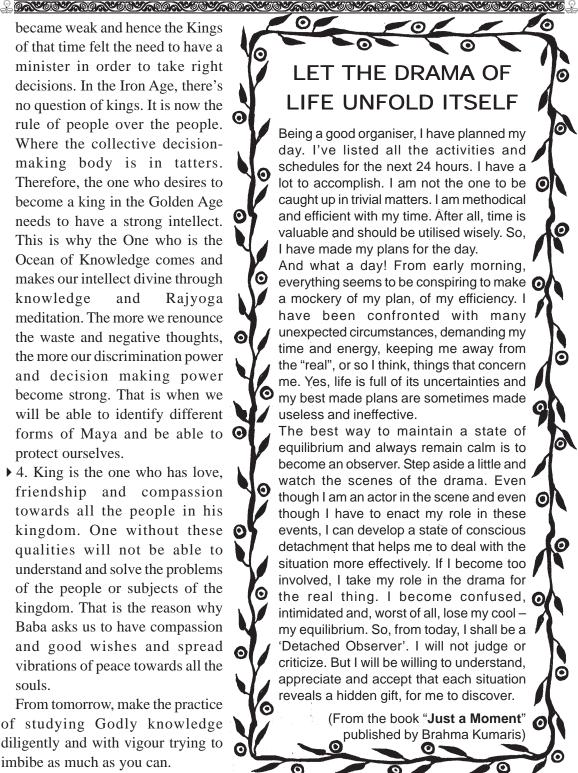
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- ▶ 1. An ideal King is the one who is always seated on the throne. As long as he is set on the throne, He is considered very powerful; hence his order is listened to and brought into action. Just like when a Minister has the power, any order that is given is listened to and brought into action. However, when the same Minister loses his power, nobody even listens to him; bringing that into action is far-off. Similarly, the one who is set on the throne of self-sovereignty can only become a king in the future. When an instruction is given to the sense organs in the soul conscious state, they listen to and obey the order.
- ▶ 2. An ideal King is the one who is always a master and never a slave. The one who is a slave to the sense organs, to the five vices of anger, greed. attachment and ego, can never become a king. Say for example, God asks us to realize ourselves as soul and see others as souls too: however, instead of seeing a soul, we see the body; instead of looking at the virtues of others, we look at
- their weaknesses; instead of seeing the new world and the sweet home (Incorporeal World or Soul World, which is beyond sun, moon and stars, where God and we souls reside as point of light), we look at the old world; then aren't we the slaves of our physical sense organs. Am I the master of the self and the master of my mind, intellect and subconscious mind do or I get influenced by all these sense organs? We instruct our mind to be in remembrance of one God Father, but for how long is it remembrance of the one God Father?
- ▶ 3. An ideal King is the one who has a strong intellect. The one with a weak intellect will not be able to take right decisions and will not be able to discriminate accurately between right and wrong, true and false. One wrong decision taken by a king can spoil the entire kingdom. The Kings of the Golden Age and the Silver Age had great wisdom, strong decision discrimination power, hence they never had the need to have a minister. In the copper age, due to body consciousness, intellect

became weak and hence the Kings of that time felt the need to have a minister in order to take right decisions. In the Iron Age, there's no question of kings. It is now the rule of people over the people. Where the collective decisionmaking body is in tatters. Therefore, the one who desires to become a king in the Golden Age needs to have a strong intellect. This is why the One who is the Ocean of Knowledge comes and makes our intellect divine through knowledge and Rajyoga meditation. The more we renounce the waste and negative thoughts, the more our discrimination power and decision making power become strong. That is when we will be able to identify different forms of Maya and be able to **O** protect ourselves.

▶ 4. King is the one who has love, friendship and compassion towards all the people in his kingdom. One without these O qualities will not be able to understand and solve the problems of the people or subjects of the kingdom. That is the reason why Baba asks us to have compassion and good wishes and spread vibrations of peace towards all the souls.

From tomorrow, make the practice of studying Godly knowledge diligently and with vigour trying to imbibe as much as you can.



# THE POWER OF PRAYER



- Dr. Awdhesh Singh, Chennai

ental communion of human beings with God is the essence of every religion. We connect to God through our prayer. It does not matter how we pray or what we say in our prayer as the mere act of prayer transforms us and our world. Soren Kierkegaard said correctly, "Prayer does not change God, but it changes him who prays."

People often doubt the efficacy of prayer. How can God answer the prayers of all His devotees? They reason: 'if prayer had power, then the people who pray must be the richest and most powerful in the world, while those who pray less or do not pray at all should be the most unhappy and miserable'. However, we see many people unhappy despite daily prayer and many people happy even though they Friedrich never pray. Nietzsche, one of the greatest philosophers of the world aptly said, "I cannot believe in a God who wants to be praised all the time."

It is absurd to think that God

needs to be praised by His devotees. There is nothing that man can give to God as man himself is the creation of God. We are like rivers, while God is like the Sea. When everything is a gift of God, what can anyone offer to God?

Yet, there is something very significant about prayer which works in a mysterious manner. It is important to know that mystery. Gandhi said, "Prayer is not asking. It is a longing of the soul. It is daily admission of one's weakness. It is better in prayer to have a heart without words than words without a heart."

It is generally said that God resides within the heart of every person; yet in reality, our heart is filled with worldly love, lust, desires, passion and hatred. The result is that we lose connection with God due to these impurities of worldly desires. We lose connection with God in the same way as a computer loses its connection with the Global Network if the Internet connection snapped. Suddenly we do not know what is happening within us or in the world. We lose the ability to see love, compassion, justice in the world and become filled with pain that is caused by our internal impurities.

Harvey Fierstein believed that prayer connects us back to the world: I do believe that we're all connected. I do believe in positive energy. I do believe in the power of prayer. I do believe in putting up good into the world. And I believe in taking care of each other. Prayer thus connects us with everyone by connecting us with God.

We in India particularly have the exalted tradition of prayer which is aimed at the welfare of the entire mankind:

- "Sarve bhavantuh sukhinah, sarve santu naramayah,

Sarve bhadrani pashyantu, ma kashchit dukh-bhag bhavet!

It is prayed that all souls be happy, all stay healthy, all be prosperous and no one suffer from any affliction.

Thus, the greatest advantage of prayer is the feeling of oneness. You are never alone if you pray regularly to God. Everyone else can leave you but God cannot since He is always with you. Once you are connected with Him, you gradually start developing His attributes. You become good, just and compassionate as you

start seeing divinity in everyone. You lose the distinction of friend and foe as everyone becomes your friend. When you have friends all around and no enemy is left in the world, you are always filled with joy and peace. You become a true lover of God, who wishes to understand the voice of his inner self and follows His direction.

During the early period of Civil War, a minister exhorted Lincoln, "Let us have faith Mr. President that the Lord is on our side in the great struggle." To this Lincoln quietly replied, "I am not at all concerned about that, for I know that the Lord is always on the side of the right; but it is my constant anxiety and prayer that this nation and I may be on the Lord's side."

It is to be understood that

God is under no obligation to answer all our prayers. He also does not fulfill all our wishes as most of our wishes are based on our limited understanding of the world. We often ask things that if granted, can make our life even more miserable. God chooses to fulfill a wish only if it is indeed good for us and not otherwise.

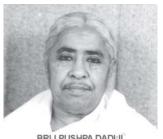
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When we pray to God, our ego is dissolved as we understand our smallness. You start hearing the voice of God more clearly from within. We transform as our thoughts resonate the thoughts of God. We completely are transformed as our wishes become one with His wishes. Thereafter, we ourselves realize that our prayers are answered very quickly and we achieve everything very fast, just as a man who swims with the flow arrives at his goal very fast. We are blessed with the power of Divine and nothing can be impossible for us. Dr. A.P.J. Abdul Kalam has rightly said, "God, our Creator, has stored within our minds and personalities, great potential strength and ability. Prayer helps us tap and develop these powers."

The Brahma Kumaris believe that God is the Supreme Father of all souls; hence we are all brothers and sisters—members of a great human family. Since we are God's spiritual progeny, we can claim all His attributes as our God Fatherly birth right through the power of meditation.

Let us therefore pray and experience the power of prayer.

### **A TRIBUTE**



BRIJ PUSHPA DADIJI KARNAL SADAR BAZAR D.O.B.:1929 (84 Yrs) Y.O.Sur.: 1937 Left Body: 20-9-2013

Rajyogini Dadi Brij Pushpa, who was a prime jewel of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya (PBKIVV), left her mortal coil on 20th September 2013, after a prolonged illness at Global Hospital and Research Centre, Mount Abu. She was 84 year old. She managed spiritual services at Karnal and sustained the divine family selflessly, after Rajyogini Dadi Manohar Indra came to Mount Abu on Godly services. She had a great balance of humour, love and power through constant practice of Rajyoga.

They were six sisters in the family and all of them chose to tread the spiritual path and got surrendered in the erstwhile Om Mandali (Now PBKIVV) since its inception. They got divine sustenance from the most revered Pita Shri Brahma Baba and Jagadamba Saraswati. Brahma Baba used to call them 'Six Lucky Sisters' with divine love. The only surviving sister now in their family is Dadi Kamalmani, who is in-charge of Krishna Nagar Centre, Delhi. The World Renewal team pays heartiest tributes to the divine soul!

## GOD'S DESCENT ON EARTH-

# The most wonderful and mysterious phenomena



- B.K. Snigdha Chakraborti, Kolkata

rom time immemorial, human beings have been searching and calling out for God. Man has not left a place unsearched on this earth in His pursuit, but has failed to find Him. Certain misconceptions started creeping about Him in the society. The messengers who came to share His message with us were started being worshipped as God and thus several religions evolved. Each religion had a God of its own and thus humanity got divided into several religions, castes, creeds, dogmas and faiths. Great souls, elevated souls, father of religions, deities—all were seen as forms of God. We were so desperate that we then shifted our focus from human beings and started worshipping nonliving objects like the five elements of nature, planets, sun and even the plants and animals.

We started believing that God is omnipresent and is in everything and everyone. We thought that HE is the one who controls our life and gives us happiness and sorrow; thus we started blaming Him for our sorrows and started praying to Him to take away our sorrows. These misconceptions moved us further away from Him. Instead of loving God, we became God-fearing people. He had become more of a villain who was responsible for everything bad that happened in our life. Some of us got too much confused and tired of finding God and started believing that He doesn't exist.

Soon, another power known as science evolved which made people shift their focus from the search of God to developing objects which could provide us material comforts and everyone started running after material gains.

definitely became comfortable but also more and more miserable because the misuse of these things brought more discontentment and sorrow. Thus man lost both his mental and physical health. Life started getting more complex, chaotic and complicated. Then is the time when God descends on this earth to liberate all the souls from this misery and to transform this old and misused world into a new and beautiful

According to His promise in

the Holy Scripture, the Shrimat Bhagawat Gita which says "Yada yada dharmasya, glanirbhawati abhyuthanam bharata. adharmasya tadatmanam srijamyaham. Paritranya sadhuna vinashayascha dushkrita. Dharmas ansthapanashchaya sambhavami yuge yuge". It means that whenever there is height of evil and unrighteousness, God will descend on this earth to bring about an end to evil and will restore a world of good and righteousness. Today, the humans have reached the lowest level of humanity as we see the world being torn apart by injustice, corruption and war. At this time of darkness. God the Highest Being has already

descended on this earth to take us towards light.

He has come to give us the total knowledge of who we are, who He is, what we are doing here and what our real destination is. He has already descended on this earth 77 years ago and is carrying out the task of world transformation. This is the time when God, the Supreme Being directly meets His children and imparts divine knowledge. Therefore, we mustn't be late in recognizing Him and listening to what He has to say to us lest we should keep on repenting later on when the time to meet Him gets over. There is a saying in Hindi, "Shubh kaam ke liye deri kyon?" which means why should we be late in doing something good? So often we crave to meet superstars or celebrities but He is the superstar of superstars because even superstars crave to meet Him. So, shouldn't we make use of this auspicious time when He Himself is offering all His treasures to us?

We searched for Him in

temples, in mosques, in gurudwaras and other holy seats but could not find Him. We looked for Him in holy men, saints, prophets and in religious founders but could not experience His love, power and purity. However, this is the moment when we receive true knowledge about His form and His true identity directly from the source, the Supreme Soul, God Shiva. It is up to us to either spend our life searching for Him or hold His hand and experience true bliss.

### THE REAL DUSSEHRA

- **BK Yogesh Kumar,** B.K. Colony, Shantivan

Bharat – the greatest land where God incarnates

Each festival with great splendour we celebrate | Dussehra or Vijay Dashmi – a wonderful fest | In October it does bring fervour and zest

Symbolizing the victory of good over evil Burning the effigies of Ravana – the devil Ten heads symbolize five vices–in men and women

Omnipresent and mighty Maya portending bad omen

The size of the effigies reflects the malaise Now God Shiva cautions children of the evil space

From Paramdham to liberate from Ravan's shackle

He comes to make His children loving and special

Ever True, Almighty, Beautiful and Auspicious Helps us take on Maya—fearsome and pernicious

His teachings transform monkey to worshipworthy

And we become ever-happy, healthy and wealthy



Being the true Sitas, let's remember only Ram Burn the Maya—Ravana, following His Gita-Gyan

True celebration will be if we're perfect and complete

The soul, nature and everything—so pure and sweet

### MAHATMA GANDHI IS TIMELESS



- B.K. Raghbir Singh, New Delhi

ad Mahatma Gandhi been confined to boundaries of time, a nation of then more than thirty crore people would not have called him 'Bapu' and adopted him as The Father of the Nation. All his life, he kept experimenting with truth and non-violence. His lifelong experiments with truth have made him as timeless and as eternal as truth.

Gandhiji's philosophy of truth and non-violence has permanence ingrained, not just in its nature and spirit, but in its each and every word. Truth and non-violence can never be outdated. Violence is a threat to the very existence of mankind and the existence of all other species. The United Nations was formed by man after the World War posed threat to his life and existence. The Security Council also came to be formed for the purpose of providing security to man against threats of violence.

The deadly proportions that violence has assumed today make Gandhi and his

philosophy of non-violence, all the more relevant. It is unthinkable to discuss whether Gandhi continues to be relevant or not. Time has made Gandhi timeless and times to come shall make him all the more timeless.

Nobel Committee's public declaration of regret over not being able to confer Nobel Peace Prize upon Gandhiji bears testimony to world's understanding of the performance of Gandhiji's principles.

Gandhiji's devotion to the cause of the liberation of the hungry and spiritually starving millions was so intense that after feeling the agony of their poverty in him, he wore their poverty on his body to experience it physically also. He made loin-cloth his complete dress, which eventually became the identity and code of his life. Reacting to this dress code of Gandhiji, Churchill had called him a 'Naked Fakir' and this is how Gandhiji wrote to Churchill:

#### Dear Prime Minister,

You are reported to have a desire to crush the simple 'Naked Fakir' as you are said to have described me. I have long been trying to be a Fakir and that naked — a more difficult task; I therefore, regard the expression as a compliment, though unintended.

"Trying to be a Fakir and that naked" – these few words are the story of one of the most eventful lives lived upon earth. Trying to be a Fakir is a Himalayan task, and to be that naked, that true, that simple, that straightforward is a task, more difficult than the first one. Gandhi did both the tasks.

### (Contd. from page no. 15)

and easy within. This helps us to successfully adapt to situations and changes taking place in the world and deal with crisis with poise and ease. Meditation also improves the power of discrimination, decision-making and owning responsibility. Therefore, instead of getting lost in the hustle and bustle of modern world and being consumed by the world's actions, we need to make a conscious attempt to remember the Divine even while performing actions. Bring Him back into your life and divinize each part of your life.

- ( ... Contd. from page no. 3) During their sovereignty, every
human soul was completely
pure, and peace and prosperity
also were at their almost peak.
The most memorable thing of
the days of Shri LaskhmiNarayan and Shri Sita-Ram is
that lust, which is the greatest
enemy of man, and other vices

were also absent and there was

complete divinity.

Even today, when people of Bharat go before the images of these deities in temples, they put on clean clothes and take caution that no vicious thought crosses their minds and no evil word slips from their mouths. Chaste devotees do not take any Tamsic food before their entry into the temples and in the prayers that they offer to the deities; they say - 'My revered deity! You possess all divine virtues and are completely viceless and nonviolent'. This prayer which has been passed on to the present generation from their ancestors, shows that during the holy sovereignty called 'Shukla-Paksha' (The Light Phase) or Brahma's day, the

human world of that epoch is called 'Vaikunth' or Heavenly Abode or Satyuga, Krit-Yuga or Golden Age.

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If Indian people light up, now-a-days, earthen lamps on the occasion of the celebrations of Diwali (which is only nominal), it can be imagined how gloriously and joyously the people of the epoch of Satyuga celebrated the ceremony of anointment of Shri Narayan. The very tradition of celebrating the day of coronation has its origin in the times of Shri Narayan and celebration of the enthronement ceremony of Shri Ram also was just according to the aforesaid tradition.

# Great contrast between Diwali then and Diwali now

But there is a huge contrast between Diwali as celebrated then and now. At that time, Shri Lakshmi and Shri Narayan and Shri Sita and Shri Ram were personally living and their respective Sun and Moon Deity Dynasties also were in existence. Today, however, the face of Bharat has altogether changed. Where are the deities today? Now only the temples and not the deities themselves, remain. Today, the character and life of the masses of Bharat bear no comparison with that of ancient times wherefore that period was called Satyuga, whereas the present period is called Kaliyuga. Now-a-days, deities are only tattooed on arms or tabooed by Pay Commissions and merely cleanliness outward observed and that also for a day or two on occasions like Diwali, etc. All this shows that people, otherwise negligent about maintaining cleanliness, are particular about inward purity and virtue on these occasions. What a wonderful abode of excellent purity, peace and prosperity Bharat was during that age, of which it is said in allegorical form that rivers then brimmed with milk and ghee.

Therefore, a brief and retrospective review of the history should show that if the people of a country are righteous and if their habits of

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living are good and divine and their 'selves' are enlightened with Godly knowledge, then disquiet, misery, poverty and slavery cannot stay there at all. And, if India is disquiet today, the single main cause of this is that its people are *Tamsic* and impious and the men running the government are also irreligious and *Bhogis* (vicious) – not Yogis.

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Thus, getting a proper understanding of the significance and origin of Diwali, one should think seriously over the problem: 'How can purity, be it outward or inward, and peace and prosperity be brought about and how can the poverty, misery and corruption be ousted? How can the self (soul) residing in the human temples (body) be lighted by means of Godly knowledge so that the Dark Phase (Krishna Paksha) may end and Satyuga, the Light Phase (Shukla Paksha) may ensue.

How was the Sovereignty of Shri Lakshmi and Shri Narayan established? The question now is that the sufferings, the disquiet, the corruption and pseudoreligions which exist in the present Kaliyuga must have existed Kalpa (5000 years) ago also; then, who destroyed that vicious world and, in its place, who reestablished the Golden-aged, religious, righteous, lawful, peaceful and prosperous world? It is none other than the Supreme Soul, God Shiva who re-establishes the Heavenly Abode of the deities through Adi Deva Brahma and Saraswati.

### On the auspicious occasion of Diwali, God Shiva tells us:

"Children! You should, tell the people at large that this period of 'Confluence of the end of Iron Age and the beginning of Golden Age' is very auspicious. It is the most appropriate time for you children to greet each other because it is within this short period that the Godly work of re-establishment of the New, Everhappy, Ever healthy, Ever-peaceful and Everprosperous Golden-aged world shall be accomplished and the souls shall close their old account of past vicious actions and open 'New Account', so as to say

of their virtuous actions in the light of the knowledge and Yoga being taught by Me, and shall, thereafter, enjoy Diwali in the Heavenly Abode."

#### I'M HERE

### - Precious Pearl

Come, sit with me, tell me all you feel

I see the tears you hide so well The pain you carry, come, share with me

I want to know and hear you tell.

How much you wish they'd understand

Just ask you once and hold your hand

To them you look who are bereft Lost and empty, with hearts long slept.

Now give us some time, just you and me

Let me shine some love on the struggles you see

Allow me to help and you won't need much

No straws for support, no emotional crutch.

As you wonder which way at the crossroad and pray

Remember I'm here, helping you work your way

You're never alone, be it your dusk or dawn

Come I'll help you fly, don't give up yet, hang on!

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