

|| From the mighty pen of Sanjay ||

SHIVRATRI – DIVINE DESCENT AND DIVINE BIRTH OF GOD

It is a pity that, today, all believers consider God to be formless in the sense that He is totally devoid of any shape, form or image, but this belief is simply incompatible with the concept of *Yoga/Bhakti* or *Gyan*. How, it may be asked, can the soul be said to mentally unite with the Supreme Soul, or in other words, how can a love-relationship be established between the two, if both were absolutely without any form? How can the soul enter into loving union with the Supreme Soul and experience or revel in the divine bliss which is



supposed to flow from such union? Again, if God is nameless, how can one remember Him by the attributes He has, and enjoy the super-sensuous bliss which is believed to be the richest reward of yoga? It, therefore, logically follows that God has both form and name – in fact, a special form and a special name, as distinguished from the name of a deity or a human being, because the Supreme Soul, as the very title indicates, is Supreme among all souls, owing to His attributes, though, not different from them in form or shape. The concept of Father-son relationship between God and man simply cannot be reconciled with the concept of God as the formless and the nameless Entity.

The Divine Abode

The Divine Father, God Shiva, is also the Creator of the three angelic deities viz. Brahma, Vishnu and Shankar, who have a separate abode far-far away from this corporeal solar system and through whom He accomplishes His three self-assigned tasks of Creation, Sustenance and Destruction of this world respectively. He is, therefore called the 'Trimurti' - the Creator of the three deities and is not to be confused with Shankar. Still further away from the subtle region is *Shiva Puri*, the eternal abode of the Supreme Soul – named also as *Param Dham* or *Nirvan Dham* – to which all human souls revert after

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MAHA SHIVRATRI: The Universal Festival



Early in the morning, the birds start singing in unison, and praising the Supreme Being's name. The sounds are so melodious, and give the experience of petals of His grace being showered on us. In one area, the devout start chanting various names of the Supreme, and in another corner, *gyani* souls are meditating and invoking His blessings. What a unique coincidence that the celebrations of Maha Shivratri take place when the winter cold has departed, and the very pleasant, beautiful fragrance of flowers fill the air. Temple bells are ringing all around, and effectively drawing everyone's attention towards the Greatest of the greatest: the Supreme Soul, Supreme Father, Incorporeal God Shiva.

For centuries, the devout all over the world, especially in Bharat, have been invoking God's blessings on Maha Shivratri through the process of natural offerings. To become familiar and conscious of God Shiva's blessings means to be filled with an intoxicating feeling and newness in our thought streams: **"Who is Shiva? What is His real form? Where is His real Abode? What are His divine deeds which make him world-famous as**

the Bestower of all Boons and Blessings? Do we have any connection or relationship with Him? If so, what is the easiest way to explore the truth about our relationship with Him?"

I am sure each human soul would think about the Supreme Source of Power, Wisdom and Love at some point or the other during their lifetime. Maybe, sometimes, it is with all love, and, perhaps, at other times, out of fear. Yet, there is a relentless search to find and know the Supreme. Religions present probably a hundred stories in praise of the Supreme, but our urge to explore the reality of truth never dies. As an observer of the global scenario, one's eyes are raised, looking into infinity, in search of the Source of Truth, Wisdom and Divinity. The human mind does not truly rest until the answer is crystal clear, and that which can benefit humanity.

The essence of our scriptures brings us to the conclusion that there is only one God, whose original name is best known as **'World Benefactor Shiva (Vishwa Kalyankari)'**. This name makes us realise that Incorporeal God Shiva must live separately from His Creation, and would have descended on

earth from the highest Abode, *Paramdham*, or the Soul World, to carry out the task of Benefactor. The reason for His descent is very clear as the role of World Benefactor cannot be enacted by any other soul, be it a Founding Father of any Religion or a divine soul of any discipline in our world, since the Creation cannot know its own beginning, middle and end. Founding Fathers have praised the Supreme Being in their own respective ways, but no one has been able to pronounce the exactness of His work. Merely on the basis of one's faith, people continue to become devotional and God-fearing. However, when that eternal star of Divine Light and Spiritual Might descends on earth, He awakens the humanity to realise the truth about His name, 'Shiva', and His divine task of re-establishment of goodness and godliness amongst the human beings.

His teachings start from awakening the third eye of wisdom to realise the benefits of Self, Soul-Consciousness, and becoming God's beloved spiritual children to empower oneself and play a role in promoting godliness. We human beings are so used to looking at physical figures and costumes, that we hardly try to indulge in self-introspection or explore our inner beauty. Just as Shiva is known as the Embodiment of Truth,

Benediction and Beauty, human souls too have similar divine virtues within themselves, but these have been forgotten or now become tainted. The saying “God created humans in His own image” goes as the age-old saying; so, as humans (men and women) we need to explore the depths of our consciousness and realise godly qualities in ourselves. The moment one understands, realises and starts living as an enlightened being, he or she glorifies the Divine Being’s goodness, and brings benefit to all of humanity, thereby living up to the name of being ‘Spiritual Children of the World Benefactor’.

The celebration of festivals in India presently is more ritualistic than actually living by the divine significance that these Festivals embody. People even endure hardships to fast and remain awake all night on Maha Shivratri, singing praises of Lord Shiva and chanting devotional songs with the hope of having a minute’s vision of the Supreme. However, we now learn that our beloved Supreme Father has ordained us to know the reality about His **name** and **form** (star-like energy), experience Him as

the **unlimited source of spiritual power** that divinises human souls in Meditation, and **understand the unique knowledge of Creator and His Creation.**

It is only the Creator who can impart exact knowledge of his Creation, right from the beginning of the Cycle of Time till the end. The most sacred and accurate time of God’s descent is at the darkest hour in the whole cycle (end of *Kaliyug*). With our self-awakening and by attuning our minds with the Supreme Being, we will transform into ever-peaceful, ever-loveful, ever-blissful, ever-blessed elevated individuals.

It is only at the present time that we can experience the Supreme Being through our all relationships with Him. He specially wishes for us to see Him as our best spiritual friend, who is always available and just a thought away! It is our experience that those who invest in a spiritual awakening, and connect emotionally and spiritually with God as a best friend, receive bountiful spiritual gifts on a daily basis.

The *Mahavakyas*, elevated

versions of God, are the real purifying holy streams that flow all over the world; every day we should choose to be those holy swans who pick up the pearls of wisdom, imbibe them, and then offer our services to transform the world. The Supreme Being’s incarnation has happened and continues to usher in global transformation on a subtle, spiritual level that is altering the outlooks belief systems and consciousness of human souls. It is the subtle change from *taamsik* to *sattvik*, and the *tamopradhan* behaviour/actions to godly actions, which has the power to uplift the weak, down-trodden souls and make them divine human beings.

Let us celebrate Maha Shivratri by reawakening our inner goodness and spreading His Godly message of living in soul-consciousness, experiencing God’s love constantly, and leading viceless or pure lifestyles!

Let us claim that cherished right to the kingdom of heaven as God’s inheritance! This would be the most glorious blessing we can receive on the auspicious festival of Maha Shivratri.

REMEMBRANCES OF A BRAVE HEART:

Divine Brother Rajyogi B.K. Ramesh N. Shah

(5th February, 1934 – 28th January, 2017)

We pay heart-felt respects to our dear and respected elder brother, Rajyogi B.K. Ramesh N. Shah, Additional Secretary-General of Prajapita Brahma

Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, who breathed his last on Saturday, 28th January, 2017 at 7.23 a.m. at Trauma Centre, Abu Road, where he had been

undergoing palliative care since 29th December, 2016.

He will always remain a great example of a strong-willed individual who led his entire life

in service of the humanity, especially in spreading the divine message of Supreme Father, Incorporeal God Shiva, as received through the medium of Pitashri Prajapita Brahmaji. He also held the following positions as one of God's worthy instruments of spiritual service:

- Managing Trustee, World Renewal Spiritual Trust
- Secretary, Brahma Kumaris Educational Society
- Organizing Secretary, Rajyoga Education & Research Foundation
- Chairperson, Jurist Wing
- Chairperson, SpARC Wing
- Secretary, Radio Madhuban Community Society (90.4FM)
- Director, Art & Culture Wing
- Founder, India One Solar Thermal Power Plant
- Trustee, Shri Shiv Adhyatmik Foundation

B.K. Ramesh N. Shah and his *laukik* spouse, B.K. Usha R Shah, were the most powerful, inspiring BK couple within the Brahma Kumaris' spiritual family. Both of them had received spiritual enlightenment,

guidance and sustenance directly from our divine parents, Mateshwari Saraswatiiji and Pitashri Brahmaji, which motivated them to lead a pure and serviceable life over decades.

With his intellectual acumen, professional excellence, and creative ability, Rameshbhaiji proved himself a responsible instrument in furthering Godly services in many arenas all over the world. His exploratory classes based on *Avyakt* BapDada's Godly versions adhered him to the entire divine family. His absence from the world-drama stage will definitely be felt by the respected Dadis, Senior Members of the divine family, B.K. Teachers and Brothers who were ever-inspired by the newness he brought to analysis of Godly Wisdom, and creation of great service plans, especially in serving the intelligentsia of all backgrounds.

Wherever this great soul is destined to be reborn the future parents would be so proud to welcome such a gifted soul into

their family who would go on to glorify the Supreme Being's task of world transformation; such a star will definitely be reborn!

We extend sweet memories of our life-long association with these divine souls, in the hope of being reunited soon in the ensuing world of Paradise, Golden Age (*Satyuga*) as enunciated by our most Beloved Spiritual Parents, *Avyakt* BapDada. Salutations, love and gratitude to our elder brother, Rameshbhaiji, and elder sister, Ushabenji!!!

As per the custom of the Brahma Kumaris spiritual family, special *Bhog* was offered on 29th January, 2017 evening to the Supreme, after the final rites, by our divine sister BK Shashiben. We share with you the *Bhog Sandesh* that emerged feelings of eternity of the soul, and the sense of uniting with the Supreme Parents, who welcomed the soul to the angelic region like a Prince returning home!

***Bhog* message for Respected Rameshbhai (abridged): 29th January, 2017**

"As I reached the subtle region, carrying love and remembrances from all of you, especially from respected Dadis, all teachers, senior brothers and all brothers and sisters, what did I see as soon as I reached the subtle region? Very beautiful stars were sparkling in a V-shape on one

side. On another side, they were sparkling in the shape of a half-moon. On the third side, there were stars in various different designs. The light from those stars was very beautiful and the reflection from those lights was making different designs in the subtle region. After some seconds, Baba was visible

coming from a distance and Rameshbhai was with Him. From the stars that were in the V-shape, many beautiful angels began to emerge and they were holding garlands of light which they were putting on Rameshbhai. Light was automatically emerging from the stars that were in the half-moon

form and creating garlands of different designs, and from the stars that were of different designs (on the third side), the light emerging from these was in the form of beautiful *tilaks* and crowns which were fully decorating Rameshbhai. This decoration was looking very beautiful. Rameshbhai was looking towards Baba, and Baba was also giving very sweet *drishti* to Rameshbhai. Rameshbhai asked Baba: "Baba, what is happening?" Baba replied: "**Child, today, all the souls whom you have served in Bharat and in the whole world, whom you have inspired and with whom you have created new plans on the field of service, in return for all of that, all of them are decorating you in their own way. Everyone has so much love for you in their hearts and everyone is remembering you with so much love.**"

Rameshbhai said: "I have not gone away, I was with Baba and I am with Baba". Baba then said: "In the last few days, the child's body was working at a very slow speed. The doctors were doing their work and the body was doing its work, and this child was with Baba in the subtle region and having a very good heart-to-heart conversation with Baba. I was wondering what the conversation would have

been." Baba smiled and said: "From the beginning, this child always felt that new plans for service should be made, what the systems of the future world would be, and how intense our effort needed to be at the present moment – he was talking to Baba about all of this." Rameshbhai said: "In order for it all to be automatic, we have to create the *sanskars* before that, then the laws and regulations, and, then, its setting will all work automatically.

Baba said: "While doing everything here, the child used to think a lot about what the future world would be like and what the economics of that world would be. He always used to write something or the other about that too. He will now carry out all of that at a fast speed in advance."

I (Shashi behn) said: "Baba, all the brothers and sisters will miss Rameshbhai, they will especially miss him in the *yagya*. Our senior brothers and the Dadis will also miss him. Rameshbhai smiled and said: "Baba has given His company to everyone and Baba is inspiring everything and I am with all of you." I (Shashi Behn) said: "You were looking after so many departments. From the beginning, you created many new plans for service." As he was hearing this, he laughed and said: "**I didn't do**

that. Baba made it happen because it is Baba's work. Baba taught me and inspired me."

Then, Baba said: "From the time that this child recognised Baba, he has been an example in the *laukik* and *alaukik* family. Having been a trustee, he did everything accurately and efficiently, making sure that nothing was lacking, that there were no mistakes. No matter what happened, he was very strict, and always had the aim of making sure everything was done accurately. He made sure all the systems of the *yagya* were correct, that there was never anything wrong, and he did everything with a lot of love. In all departments, he has his experienced jewels with him who are doing everything now and will continue to do so." He said: "Tell everyone, **if you continue as a trustee and always keep Baba with you, if you have faith in one another, are co-operative with one another, and keep the gathering strong as you do everything, then Baba will touch you with new methods. Baba is bound to you to make sure every task is carried out accurately.**" Baba said: "This is My task, I am with you and I will always fulfil the responsibility."

Om Shanti,

– *B.K. Nirwair*

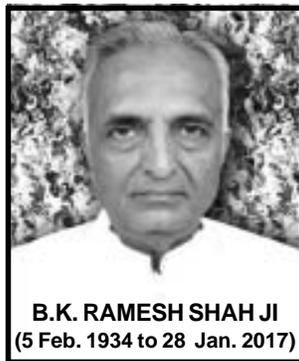
A DIVINE TRIBUTE TO LATE BROTHER B.K. RAMESH SHAH

Our divine Bro. B.K. Ramesh Shah, the most beloved child of BapDada, finally lay in their luminous lap after breathing his last and leaving his mortal coil at 7.23 am on January 28, 2017 in Trauma Centre of GHRC, Abu Road, where he was being treated for Kidney and several other ailing problems. His mortal remains were consigned into flames at 4.00 p.m. at Mukti Dham cemetery of Amthala on Sunday dated 29-01-2017 after a journey of *Chardham* at Pandav Bhawan, Gyan Sarovar, Manmohinivan Complex and Shantivan Complex where thousands of B.K. Teachers and students of India and Abroad paid their last floral tributes to him.

Born on February 5, 1934 beloved brother Ramesh ji was 83 years old. He was rich with multi-faceted geniuses and qualities. He first came in contact with Prajapita Brahma, the corporeal founder of this socio-spiritual organization along with his mother Shanta Devi in 1953 and dedicated himself to the causes and services of the organization with body, mind, wealth, time energy and thought since 1961. At his first sight of

Brahma Baba, he recognized and realized that the personality of the Founder of Religion could be like that of Brahma Baba whose divine sight reminded him of the reclining Buddha image of Ajanta & Ellora caves.

He played a very significant role in the growth and



development of the organization and its services in the country and abroad with the novelty of his vision and research. He was a member of the first delegation to foreign countries that established centres in London, Hongkong, USA, Australia, Singapore, Malaysia and African countries. In 1964, he organized the first ever spiritual Exhibition in Mumbai with the direction of Brahma Baba which became a milestone in spiritual service in Maharashtra zone.

After the ascension of

Brahma Baba to the subtle world, he also accompanied Dadi Prakashmani, the former Chief of Brahma Kumaris, to many countries of the world for transmitting the spiritual knowledge.

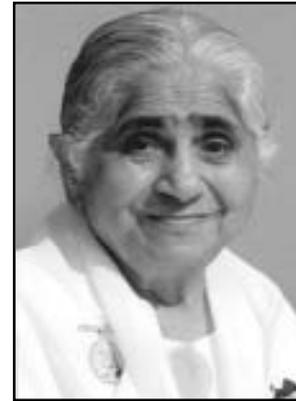
His widely acclaimed book *Pavitra Dhan* (Pure Money Economics), known for deeper understanding of economics and its blending with philosophy of life, has inspired many people to earn money honestly and utilize them properly. Like king Janak, he was a model of family life and remained ever a trustee in personal and service life. He was specially awarded by UNO and its allied NGO institutions in USA and UK for “International Understanding and Excellence in Financial Management.”

With his far-sighted vision and resourcefulness he had successfully managed the activities of the Brahma Kumaris and other organizations in various positions. To such an illustrations, spiritual, determined, dedicated and devoted personality, the whole divine Brahma Kumaris family is paying a special divine tribute along with all the team members of *The World Renewal*, the monthly English spiritual magazine of the organization, and wishing his further successful role in its affairs. ❖

DEVELOP TOLERANCE AND EARN IN EVERY SECOND



– **Rajyogini Dadi Janki**,
Chief of Brahma Kumaris, Shantivan



Baba's sweetness makes our every thought pure and peaceful. It is said that wherever the body is, our mind follows; but, for us, wherever the body may be, our mind is up there with Baba. The intellect holds the knowledge of the Creator and His Creation and works on it very well. Who is the Creator? And what is the Creation? I had no idea that Baba was going to create such a huge and beautiful creation. Whenever a soul is touched by Baba's love, it says, "Baba is mine"; and Baba says, "Child, You are mine". This creates fortune as we have this mutual exchange of thoughts and reciprocate our feeling of belonging to Baba. I always have this feeling that on the right side of me there is God, *Bhagwan* – my Companion. Every breath, thought, and word I say and every step I take, He is there as my Companion. The points of *Murli* touch my mind and heart again and again, and, thus, these keep repeating internally. When we sit for

remembrance of God, our intellect should not wander anywhere. Check yourself. I am a soul and when the soul leaves the body, it becomes a dead body. We should keep introspecting on the inheritance of happiness, power, peace and love we have received from Baba. As we listen to Baba's *Murli*, we nod within as though the soul is saying 'yes, yes'. The songs have such beautiful words. The composer, singer and musician are all different. One composes, the other sings and still another plays; and the result is so beautiful.

When Baba was in Mumbai, he did such a great service that he became inspiration for a very good service that was to come. Service helps us a lot. The more you serve with honesty and love, the more joy you experience which is an unlimited joy. This joy is given by Allah Himself. Such joy which is bountiful is bestowed by Allah. Once, when I visited a mosque, naturally, the sound of Allah came from within me. God is One. When Brahma

Baba and Shiv Baba are together, we call them BapDada. When Baba comes into the body of Dadi Gulzar, we say BapDada.

You are my brothers and sisters and I am sure you will accept what I am saying to you. Whatever effort Baba is asking us to make, we need to make itself now through our spiritual efforts. There are many aspects of this effort. Baba tells us about these efforts and we also see them through other BKs. We need to ask ourselves, "Are these things really in my life?" When others will experience these things from us, they will naturally have the feelings of love towards us.

Baba speaks and every day He grinds and grinds this knowledge in such a way that it is instilled within me, His child. Every word Baba has spoken has pierced Dadi's heart. When Baba was in the body, Baba taught us with a lot of love, how to be beyond the

body, to be bodiless and soul-conscious. I am not this body. I can remain in the soul-conscious stage.

It is a matter of great honour and pride that everyone sits here and remains together in such sweet silence. Do you remain aware that every second and every moment is precious? We know that 60 seconds equal 1 minute and 60 minutes make an hour. Ask yourself: “What did I do in each second? What did I do in the past hour? What did I do in past 24 hours? Was that useful for myself and others?”

Baba tells us that the power of tolerance is very important. If someone tolerates, it is a sign of strength of one’s character. We can emerge the power of tolerance. A sign of missing the power of tolerance in my life is that I will not be able to maintain good wishes for everyone. If you lack the power of tolerance, you will never be able to send the vibrations of peace and power to souls, near and far. If the facilities of science can send waves so far away, then why I, the soul, cannot do it? Why cannot I send the vibrations of peace and power to souls?

Let us now listen to a beautiful song and sit in such beautiful silence that no other thoughts emerge in our mind. Practise this controlling power. It is not that we suppress but by using controlling power, we have the potential to earn income in every second and every minute of the day. ❖

REMAIN HAPPY

Always create powerful thoughts of happiness, and you, your body, mind and spirit will always remain happy.

THE SIGNIFICANCE OF THOUGHT POWER IN MEDITATION

Meditation is not a process of emptying the mind of thoughts. In meditation I use the natural power of the soul – the power to create thoughts – as a take-off point (or as a spring-board) to finally experience the consciousness of the true self. In meditation, I climb a ladder of well-prepared, positive and spiritual thoughts and eventually climb beyond the ladder into the pure experience of what I really am. Pondering over these pure and real thoughts can occupy the soul for long periods of time.

In the most basic stage of Rajyoga meditation, first comes the realization: I am a soul, the energy of consciousness made up of a mind, an intellect and a collection of *sanskars*. My eyes, ears, nose, mouth are just the organs, which when used correctly, help me, to enjoy life. I the soul, now possess the knowledge that will free me from my body-cage. I have the key, the spiritual knowledge - I am a soul, a being of light, a free bird which has the power to fly freely. Knowing this, I am not bound by physical laws. I can detach and fly at the speed of a thought, to the metaphysical Soul World, where I can easily experience my original and essential state. I must realize that it is impossible to have *peace of mind* if I, the soul, cannot detach myself from the body. I must look upon all my family members, friends, colleagues also as souls which have come from the same Soul World. We are all fellow souls.

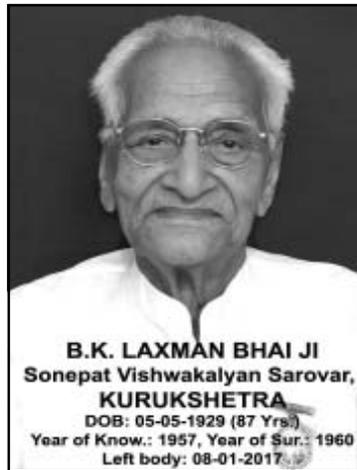
A DIVINE TRIBUTE
TO LATE BROTHER B.K. LAXMAN

Our beloved divine brother B.K. Laxman, who was loved and fostered by the corporeal father-mother Brahma Baba, ensconced in the Heart-throne of God, completely surrendered and served with body, mind and wealth like sage Dadhichi, received the Godly spiritual knowledge in the year 1957, and since then remained dedicated to the spiritual service.

In his *laukik* life, he was a teacher and finally promoted to become an education officer. Wherever he was transferred, he served spiritually many souls by sowing the seed of divine knowledge in them and became instrumental in opening many service centres and *Gita Pathshalas*. He was doing spiritual service in villages through projector shows and exhibitions. Many souls who were taught by him, are now cooperative and helpful in Godly service. God Father Shiva was praising his

services in *Murli* from time to time.

His whole family is dedicated and cooperative in Yagya service. Baba endearingly regarded his family as “a bouquet of yogis.” The editor of *Gyanamrit*, the Hindi spiritual magazine, and *The World Renewal*, the English spiritual magazine, is his younger brother, named B.K. Atam Prakash. B.K.



Raj Behn, the in-charge of Amritsar Service Centre, is his younger sister.

When the Press was in Delhi, he cooperated with Brother B.K. Jagdish ji in

publication of different forms of literature and magazines as a managing editor. He was quite conversant with English Language and History.

He lived his life with the principle of simple living and high thinking, and impressed many souls and inspired them to live such a life with remembrance of God and inculcation of values and virtues in their day-to-day life.

His sincere and continuous efforts helped the organization for getting success in making 34 acres of land near Sonipat trouble free for construction. His soul left the mortal coil and took shelter in the lap of *Avyakt* Bapdada on 08-01-2017 when he was 87 years old. During the last period of his life, he took very least service from others and became engaged in the service with the Advanced Party.

To such a loving, untiring server, model of sacrifice, renunciation, economy and *ekanami*, the whole divine B.K. family is offering its heart-felt tribute along with the team members of *THE WORLD RENEWAL*, the Spiritual English Monthly Magazine.

THE PSYCHO-SPIRITUAL SOCIAL SERVICE OF BRAHMA KUMARIS ORGANIZATION



—B.K. Surendran, Bangaluru

There are innumerable social service organisations, foundations and trusts throughout the world. There are non-governmental organisations (NGOs) also which are engaged in social service. Almost all social service organisations are supported by the governments, trusts or foundations. It is also reported that some of these organisations indulge in misappropriation and misuse of funds, granted to them. Many such organisations also raise funds from the public through donations. These funds are generally utilised for material support to the poor, women, children, handicapped and sick people and so on. It is also observed that there are some philanthropists whose instances promote many social service initiatives. But, as time passes by and as these activities become old, it remains as a practice and as the fund managers are changed, things take

to a route of mismanagement and fight for mere publicity and popularity and become a mere means of making money.

Because of these reasons, the social service ventures are being brought under the scanner of certain government agencies to check unlawful activities, especially in the field of social service delivery points, purpose, and fund management and so on.

Psycho-spiritual social service

On the other hand, psycho-spiritual social service has the unique distinction of serving the souls. Serving unto the spirit is the motto of spiritual social service. Brahma Kumaris is a global psycho-spiritual social service organisation which is spread over 140 countries of the world, where women, who have totally surrendered their life, are in the forefront of psycho-spiritual social service. It is not that the team of social service consists of only women, but also that there are like-minded

dedicated men who support the efforts of these selfless, dispassionate and service-minded women. Similarly, as the aim of social service is to mitigate the sufferings of the people caused due to want of money, food, clothing, shelter, education and training, etc., so also spiritual social service aims to release the tension and stress of those who shoulder higher responsibilities particularly in organisations and society, those who suffer from addictions and negativities of various kinds such as anger, fear, ego, jealousy, suspicion, stress and strain in human relationship and life in general and emotional conflagration, social injustice and so on and so forth. The psycho-spiritual social service initiative aims to provide solace, peace and well-being to those who suffer at psychic, social and emotional level so that they can be effective, productive, honest, sincere, truthful and able to enjoy whatever they do and serve the society with satisfaction. Therefore, it is necessary for the psycho-spiritual and social servants themselves to qualify ethically, morally and spiritually along with the qualities of enlightened self-disinterest, non-attachment, judicious impartiality with an amount of imaginative sympathy,

empathy and goodwill. They have a mindset of sacrifice, *Tapasya* (austerity) and ardent will and keen taste to serve the spirits with a lot of interest. Their every thought, word and deed becomes an act of service which aims at giving relief to the souls. They have an attitude of instrumentality, soul consciousness, constructiveness and trusteeship. They are naturally happy alone and also in a group, and there is harmony in their relationship with one and all. They have no expectation for name and fame, position or post as they rejoice on the solace experienced by the recipients of their self-less services, rendered. There is absolute unity, love and integrity among them.

Godly service

Psycho-spiritual social service is also called Godly service. It is incredible to reveal that God, the Supreme Father of all souls, has an eternal part to be the obedient servant of humanity when He descends in the body of Prajapita Brahma at the end of the life cycle in a Kalpa (a period of 5,000 years) and serves humanity with a difference. At present God, the Supreme Soul, is enacting the roles of Supreme Father-Mother, Supreme Teacher, Supreme Preceptor, Guide and Servant to the humanity. God teaches

humankind the art of living with a specific aim and firm determination to raise the ordinary common place human beings to the extraordinary level of deities. Therefore, He reveals such knowledge that the study of the knowledge itself will raise a human soul to the god-like level. Whatever a godly servant does becomes an act of self-less service. For example, there is always a recipient to receive a true smile, a word of hope or optimism, and happiness. He is able to inspire others to be zealous and enthusiastic. Godly service at all levels is rendered free of cost. Donations are not collected either for the service or for running the godly service centres. The godly social service is an initiative of this institution dedicated to global peace and happiness. The godly servant has no expectation of any kind whatsoever – name, fame or platitude.

Qualifications of a Godly social servant:

- ▶ 1. A Godly social servant is a person who is soul-conscious, does not lose temper under any circumstances.
- ▶ 2. He/she has sweet behaviour, and maintains humility, selflessness, simplicity, tolerance, co-operation, love, pure feelings and good wishes.
- ▶ 3. He/she is faithful and has unquestionable character, integrity, sincerity and honesty.
- ▶ 4. He/she is primarily a regular Godly student and has unequivocal faith in God and His knowledge and Godly family.
- ▶ 5. He/she has an attitude of instrumentality, constructiveness and a spirit of universal brotherhood.
- ▶ 6. He/she maintains sacrifice and practices *tapasya* as a way of life. He/she is concerned with the well-being and happiness of others.
- ▶ 7. He/she maintains sweet relationship with one and all. He/she never creates an enemy in his/her life.

a. Benefits that are derived by a Godly servant.

- ▶ 8. He/she experiences super-sensuous joy. He/she earns the blessings of those who are served.
- ▶ 9. He/she learns new lessons on life through his/her interaction with others.
- ▶ 10. In course of time, he/she becomes an embodiment of knowledge that he/she gives, and through his/her words, deeds and activities will indirectly convey the essence of knowledge.
- ▶ 11. He/she is able to

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GREATNESS



—B.K. Sivasothy, Jaffna

The famous English poet William Shakespeare said, “Some are born great, some achieve greatness, and some have greatness thrust upon them”.

We, the spiritual students of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, enjoy all three types of greatness described by the poet in elevated Confluence Age. We are the mouth-born progenies of Prajapita Brahma Baba. Hence, all the Brahmin souls are born great. The Brahmins, who remain stable in their concentration, clearly experience themselves as souls and understand the different subtle forms of *Maya*. Such clarity comes with the power of concentration. They watch everything with their inward eye. They watch the worldly things as passing clouds. Every event and action come and go, as it is predestined according to the Cosmic Scheme of the Drama. The great souls get the correct perception, their insights convince them the correct path and they act according to the perception they perceive. Therefore, their thoughts, words and actions are always in unison.

Greatness is visible in the simplicity while zeal and enthusiasm are visible in the eyes, expressions and actions of those who are full of spiritual attainments. The sparkle of such attainment inspires others. Therefore, we can confirm that the great Brahmin souls are *born great*.

The faraway Traveller, the *Trilokinath*, the Supreme Soul, who is called the *Trinetri* has opened the third eye of knowledge of us, the Brahmin souls, and lifted up the anchor of our boats. The boat is still sailing amidst the strong water currents, heavy rush of winds and large waves. The light house of this elevated Confluence Age is visible but the pathway of purity, truth, humility and obedience is full of pot-holes, and in this way, we Brahmin souls are making sincere efforts to reach the destination. Victory is our birthright. We *achieve greatness* by being in solitude and becoming lost in the depths of the One, the Supreme *Satguru*, and try to remain free from all attractions of this perishable world. Our destination is determined in this Confluence Age. The proverb

says “Time and tide wait for none”. The canopy of the truth, the omens of Jupiter, the Seed of the World-Tree, are always over the Brahmin souls, protecting them and guiding them according to the *Shreemat*.

The Knowledge of the Cycle of the Drama is instilled in the minds of Brahmin souls. They imbibe divine virtues through purity and truthfulness. Hence, the Brahmin souls not only achieve greatness through their yoga power but also by understanding Baba’s spiritual knowledge and by practising it with determined thoughts. There is limitless praise of the knowledge of True *Gita* being imparted by God Shiva in this elevated Confluence Age. It is the mother of all scriptures as Brahmin souls achieve greatness through gathering knowledge and the remembrance of the Supreme Power.

Such elevated souls become angels in the elevated Age of Transition and will become deities with the double crown in the forthcoming *Satyuga*. Their greatness depends on going deep into the depth of the knowledge and practising it in their day-to-day life. A seed germinates in fertile soil with provision of pure water and light. The knowledge of the

Supreme Soul germinates in the purity of the heart of each and every great soul. So, they achieve all divine virtues with the help of the Superior *Guru*. In this way, greatness is *thrust upon* in such souls. They reveal the Father, the Bestower of Happiness and Peace and themselves bestow happiness and peace to all souls, whether they are close or far away from them.

Therefore, the souls who make sincere efforts are *born great*; they *achieve greatness* through their endeavour and their faith in the Supreme Father, the Supreme Self while greatness is *thrust upon* such great souls who are regarded as angels and deities.

The fortunate souls are the great souls who imbibe Godly knowledge, practise what they preach, and stay under the canopy of protection of God and His *Shreemat*.

Such fortunate souls give good wishes to all, ignite their flame of purity and glitter like genuine diamonds with the specialty of truth. The fortunate souls are also the great souls who help to open the gateway to *Paramdham* and Heaven. ❖

(Contd.from page no. 13)

practically apply the points of knowledge based on the situations and people he/she deals with and becomes successful.

- ▶ 12. He/she is able to understand to what extent he/she has learnt the lessons of knowledge practically.
- ▶ 13. He/she is able to strike a balance between Godly service and his/her own personal life, godly service and relationship with one and all.
- ▶ 14. Above all, he/she earns the blessings of the Lord, which means he/she is earning the good wishes and pure feelings of one and all. ❖

THE DYNAMICS OF GREED

Deficiencies inside us bring about a spiritual void or the lack of wholeness (fullness). As we lay the foundation of our lives on deficiencies or weaknesses, the result is suffering, sorrow and peacelessness. If we act in consciousness and harmony with our essential spiritual virtues and qualities, the result is cooperation, happiness, peace, contentment and, finally, wholeness.

A spiritual void leads to selfishness and causes the emergence of greed inside us. We want to have more and possess more, which generates a state of expectation and unfulfilled expectation leads to stress. We fill our lives with things and objects to cover up inner deficiencies. Then, we are afraid of losing them. We generate expectations of all kinds, and, when they are not fulfilled, we react with anger, frustration, fear or disappointment. The inner emptiness makes us become greedy. Therefore, we try to possess all sorts of material objects, properties, things and, thus, try to fill our inner emptiness in vain. We take and consume more of material things than what we can give to the Universe in the form of subtle positive thoughts, feelings, vibrations, actions, etc., and this brings about imbalances in the self, in our relation with others and with Nature.

Something similar happens on a physical level. The body has a capacity to recycle and eliminate waste through different mediums. However, since we consume more toxins than the body can process, it leads to imbalance and we are more prone to feeling physically ill and unfit and developing sickness, diseases, etc.

CREATING A SOUL-CONSCIOUS STAGE



–B.K. Viral, Borivali West, Mumbai

The first lesson that God teaches us is that ‘You are a soul, not the body’. Hence, creating and maintaining the soul-conscious stage is one of our primary practices.

So, let us explore what exactly is meant by a soul-conscious stage, how to create it, what are its signs and benefits.

A. What is soul-conscious stage?

The basis of any *sthiti* (stage) is *smriti*, i.e., our thoughts are the foundation of our state of mind.

As we create a thought – “I am a Peaceful soul” – then, this thought creates a feeling of peace. As we continue creating a series of associated thoughts, these little feelings continue to accumulate, thereby creating a sense of inner calm.

B. Creating a soul-conscious stage

Some of the thoughts that we can focus on for creating a soul-conscious stage are mentioned as follows:

- I am a peaceful soul.
- I am a being of energy.
- I am a pure and powerful

being.

- I am the child of the Almighty Authority.
- I am the Master of this body.
- I am eternal and imperishable; the body is mortal and perishable.
- I am a sparkling star, a shining jewel.
- I am the driver, the body is my vehicle.
- I am the actor, this body is my costume.
- I am a deity, this body is the temple.
- I am the charioteer; this body is my chariot.
- I am the Master Sun of Knowledge.
- I am a victorious jewel.
- I am the light of God’s eyes, I am the light of the world.
- I am the resident of *Paramdham*.
- I have come down and taken this human costume to play my part in this world drama.
- I was originally perfect and complete, full of all virtues, completely pure in *Satyuga*.
- I am currently under the direct sustenance of God, who is making me full and

perfect once again.

- I am God’s angel and sharing happiness with all.

We can use the above list of thoughts in following ways:

- (i) We can create all these thoughts for good soul-conscious stage by holding any one of these thoughts for a few minutes to experience a peaceful and powerful stage. If we visualise the form of the soul, and we are able to hold that image in our intellect, experience becomes very easy.
- (ii) By taking *drishti* from Baba with the awareness that He is looking at me as a soul. His powerful soul-conscious *drishti* makes it very easy to experience soul-consciousness.
- (iii) By remaining in the peaceful environment of the Centre which is charged with vibrations of meditation and soul-consciousness since many years. Creating a soul-conscious stage in such an environment becomes very easy.

C. Signs

It is important to be aware of the signs of a soul-conscious stage. This helps us to check at any time or after meditation whether we are soul conscious, and the extent to which our state is powerful.

We can check our soul-conscious stage being aware of the following signs:

A. External Signs

In soul-conscious stage:

- Our words are soft and sweet.
- We experience a feeling of lightness around us and in our actions.
- Our face looks light and happy.

B. Internal Signs

In soul-conscious stage:

- Our thoughts are slow, focused, peaceful.
- We are able to quickly put a full stop to past.
- We worry less about the future.
- Our discerning and decision making capacity becomes efficient and quick; we are able to resolve and finish issues quickly.

C. Interactions, Memories, etc.

- We see each other as souls and focus on other's specialities.
- It becomes easy to create thoughts of good wishes and pure feelings for everyone around us.
- We can stay in constant remembrance of our silence home and our Incorporeal Father, the Supreme Soul.

D. Best Practices

In order to be able to create and maintain the soul-conscious stage throughout the day, there are some best practices which

are as follows:

a. On waking up

When we wake up, particularly early in the morning, the mind is absolutely fresh. Whatever we listen, read or experience at this time goes straight in, thereby easily continuing for the rest of the day. Creating the soul-conscious stage at this time and then also connecting with the 100% soul-conscious Being, God, makes it easy to remain soul-conscious for the rest of the day.

b. Listening to the Murli

To become a doctor, we need to study from a doctor. Similarly, to become soul conscious, we need to study from the 100% soul-conscious Being. Hence, daily listening to the Murli is very important for good soul-consciousness.

In addition, before *Murli* class, it is a very good practice to create the soul-conscious stage, and then, try to maintain it during *Murli* class. It is easy to maintain during this time, since we are listening from the 100% soul-conscious Being, who is also seeing us as souls. It then becomes easy to remain in that stage later during the day too.

c. Throughout the day

Keep attention on thoughts throughout the day to ensure that we do not go too much towards waste (about past or other people) or negativity. This

prevents us from getting unnecessarily pulled into body-consciousness.

d. Breaks (Traffic Control)

Sometimes, when involved in a lot of actions, we may lose attention on the self. Hence, taking a regular break (Traffic Control, whether the regular 3 minute breaks or 1 minute every hour) helps a lot as we can recreate the soul-conscious stage during that time. This effect, then, remains for a long time, after which it might be time to take another break. Hence, in this manner, we can maintain an elevated stage throughout the day.

e. Before sleeping

Before sleeping, it is important to do a quick audit or check of our state of mind over the day and resolve any pending issues. Then, create the soul-conscious stage for a few minutes and then go to sleep. This ensures an elevated stage throughout sleep, thereby improving sleep quality and making it natural to wake up early.

E. Continuing Ahead

The nature of the mind is that it requires newness. Hence, if we create the same thoughts daily in meditation, it will get bored. Hence, although I have given a list of thoughts above, it is very important to have access to a source from which we

regularly get new thoughts to create in meditation.

The main sources of thought are as follows:

- ▶ *Murli*: In it, God not only reminds to us that we are a soul, but does so in various different ways and methods. This gives us different methods, approaches and aspects of soul-consciousness. For example, He uses many different phrases for soul-consciousness such as:
- ▶ *Bodiless stage*: It means I sit and become completely detached from the body, i.e., not using the body at all.
- ▶ *Dehi Abhimani Stage*: Here, while in actions, we remember that we are doing actions through the body, seeing through the eyes, etc.
- ▶ *Atma-abhimani Stage*: In this stage, we are in the experience and awareness of our original qualities.
- ▶ *Churning of Knowledge*: The more we contemplate and churn the knowledge of soul, we get new points which can be created in meditation. For example, thinking over the point – ‘I am Master Sun of Purity’ – we get the following points:
- ☞ Like the Sun, I am full of all powers.
- ☞ My rays and vibrations are finishing all weakness around me.

☞ Everyone around me are getting benefited from my vibrations of purity.

☞ I am child of the Sun of Purity; He gives powerful vibrations of purity to all; I am also His child, I am like Him, and will become like Him.

▶ *Classes on Soul-Consciousness*: While listening to classes on soul-consciousness by senior experienced souls we also get new approaches to practise soul-consciousness

F. Importance

Being soul-conscious has numerous benefits, some of which are listed below:

- ▶ When soul-conscious, we are in the experience of our original qualities of purity, peace, etc. This makes us feel very full satisfied, and also heals the mind.
- ▶ When soul-conscious, the resulting vibrations reach the body. This helps the body organs work efficiently and work in harmony, thereby helping the healing process.
- ▶ Since our mind is light and free from waste, work efficiency increases, thereby helping us do more work in less time.
- ▶ When we are in the experience of our original qualities, we start giving rather than taking, accepting instead of expecting. This

improves all our relationships.

Our spiritual progress is based on the soul conscious stage in the following ways:

- ▶ Being soul-conscious helps us to understand *Gyan* easily, deeply and in a simple natural manner.
- ▶ When we are soul-conscious, it becomes easy to remember the Supreme Soul, our Supreme Father. Hence, soul-consciousness is the basis of Rajyoga meditation
- ▶ Soul-consciousness is the basis of our *Dharna*, i.e., all divine virtues like simplicity, patience, cheerfulness, sweetness, tolerance, etc.
- ▶ When we are soul-conscious, pure vibrations spread around; our words touch others’ hearts; our actions inspire others; hence, it is the basis of *Seva*, whether through thoughts, words or actions.

Here, some thoughts are mentioned below to increase our determination for creating and maintaining the soul-conscious stage:

▶ My efforts of soul consciousness in this one divine birth will last effortlessly for 21 births.

As per the drama, we remained body-conscious for half a cycle, if even now we remain body conscious, then, what is the benefit? ❖

SHAKTI NIKETAN: TRULY GOD'S ABODE FOR SHIVA SHAKTIS

Would you dare to imagine a world which is devoid of television, movie, mobile, chat groups, whatsapp, facebook, instagram and other social sites in the present time?

Today, it is beyond imagination to think of anyone who is not mesmerized by the lustrous attractions of the materialistic world where well-use of science is learnt but values of soul are forgotten.

One may be taken aback to hear that still there is a place which defies the mesmerism of so called modernized and materialistic world even in the present time. This unique and

divine abode is a place which sets its foundation stone under the kind aegis of reverend brother late Om Prakash Bhajji in the year 1983, at Indore (M.P.) and was termed as "SHAKTI NIKETAN". It is a unique girls' hostel where the inmates are taught to inculcate divine virtues under the kind and tender care of reverend sisters Karuna Didi and Shakuntala Didi who have selflessly devoted themselves for nurturing girls from all over India and Nepal.

The girls, belonging to various backgrounds along with their academic studies, gain spiritual knowledge under strict discipline but loving guidance of the senior

sisters which bring changes even in their strong and subtle, old "sanskars"

The hostel has nurtured several girls into divine angels who are now rendering their spiritual services by becoming the right hand of beloved "Baba" at various places in the country as well as abroad. "SHAKTI NIKETAN" has become a unique institution of its own kind to mould the feminine power to its utmost potential. Away from all the vices, these girls cocoon themselves in the spiritual ambience and transform then into divine angels. The senior sisters not only help the girls to inculcate virtuous lifestyle but also to become the living examples of virtues.

Observance/ Implementation of Godly rules and regulations:

Here, the day breaks at the nectar time that is AMRITVELA at about 3 a.m. to 3.30 a.m. with a compulsory uninterrupted meditation session. After this, *Murli* class is conducted and attending it is must for all the students.

Murli is the utmost medium to inculcate the spiritual knowledge; hence, to emphasise on the attention towards it, tests are conducted on the knowledge-and-Yoga-based content in a very novel and innovative way.



Purity of food:

The readymade eatables from the markets are not permitted in the hostel. The biggest boon is that within the hostel itself there is a good provision of sumptuous, rich and lavish delicacies. Here, variety of nutritious and delicious food is prepared by the inmates, may it be the sweets or savoury. The *tolis* prepared here are quite pure and the taste is eternally gratifying. The richness of taste and the variety never let the inmates imagine the food of the markets.

Hygiene and Self-reliance:

All the inmates of the hostel are taught the very basic lesson “Cleanliness is Godliness” and are trained to be self-reliant in every day-to-day activities like washing, cleaning, mopping, chopping, etc. which make the ambience of the hostel clean and bright.

Perfection in co-curricular activities :

In the hostel, along with the physical tasks, the girls are groomed to be versatile in music, elocution, debate, drawing, dance, drama, speech, hospitality, interior decoration, stitching, embroidery, art and craft, computers, etc. The unique and astonishing cultural programmes, put at the annual day celebration of the hostel,

depict their utmost creativity. The guests and the audience become spellbound when they see the grand decoration exhibited on the walls, roofs, elevations, stairs and at every nook and corner of the premises.

The cohesiveness and eternal bonding:

There is an atmosphere of unconditional love, respect and compassion among the inmates which make it easy to leave the comfort of home and parental care. The girls come from different backgrounds, states, languages with varied habits and *sanskars*, but, here, they live so amicably that their cohesiveness is worth imbibing. They have profound regard for their elders and towards the “YAGYA”. This is clearly evident from the spontaneous expressive words of a parent of one of the hostellers from Maharashtra: “Nine years ago we were extremely worried about our

daughter as she was becoming arrogant, stubborn, disobedient and highly influenced by the pomp and show of the material world. Then, we came to know about the hostel in Indore from one of the devotee sisters. We got our child admitted there. There was a remarkable transformation in her personality. She was groomed with much love and compassion and is now confidently heading towards a stable, disciplined yet fearless life. There has not only been a great growth in her but our life too has got a spiritual purpose. We are humbly and greatly thankful to the Almighty for this. These words come from the bottom of our heart and we can't resist singing the tunes of gratitude.” Hence, one can see the positive impact of the hostel in shaping the young lives towards a brighter future.

**Admission is open from January to April.
For additional information, please contact :**

– B.K. Karuna –

‘SHAKTI NIKETAN’

**Om Shanti Bhawan, Gyan Shikhar, Gate No.-2
33/4 New Palasia, Indore (M.P.) - 452001
Mob.- 09425316843, 9425903328
Ph. No.: - 07312531631**

AXIS SHIFT OF EARTH: A WARNING OF NATURE TO MANKIND



– B.K. Prabir Kumar Bose,
Bhubaneswar

If we can come out of this physical body and look into the space, we will see how beautiful and alive this universe is. Have we ever tried to explore this infinite space above us and the vast underwater world of beautiful creatures, valleys, and ferns below us? How nicely and beautifully they co-exist in a planned manner peacefully and graciously. There is absolute harmony among everything obeying the divine law. We, the human beings, can act freely only within a limited scope. If we go against the divine law, we will punish or destroy ourselves. For this reason, saints never tried to change the world with the spiritual power that they received from nature, instead they wrote thousands of spiritual scriptures, poems and verses in praise of Nature.

In this God's Creation, human beings and Nature have an important role to play, as there is a strong bond between them due to their mutual dependence on each other. But, with the

passage of time, this bond is becoming weak, and the gap between the world of human beings and the world of Nature is increasing.

We forget that our body is made up of the five elements of Nature – air, water, fire, earth, and sky – the internal quality of which is only to give. Why don't we stay in the form of 'giving' which is our inborn quality? God has given human beings intelligence and consciousness to change the course of Nature for better or for worse. Correspondingly, the Nature has enough for every one's need but not for anyone's greed. Nature's door is always open for everybody equally but when human beings constantly follow the wrong path by breaking the divine law in exploitation of nature, negative energy or negative vibrations are impacting Nature; so, the Nature's response becomes negative. As a result, there are natural disasters such as earthquakes, volcanic eruptions, floods,

droughts, tsunamis, storms, etc., that cause harm to human world in form of loss of lives and properties.

Human beings might have progressed scientifically and technologically, but emotionally and spiritually the basic foundation of love, peace, happiness and goodness has almost vanished. This is not a sign of progress but a definite sign of decline. Unfortunately, we forget that the entire planet is our home and we all are spiritually brothers as souls – the spiritual children of God – under the protective umbrella of God Father Shiv Baba. If despite Nature's warning, human beings do not change, Nature itself must correct the imbalance through a natural cleansing process. This is because God's Creation (both the worlds of Human and Nature) must exist as they are meant to be - peaceful, generous and pure. The cleansing process is done by Nature in the form of natural disasters, one such disaster being the shifting of the earth's axis that may cause a major part of negativity to be wiped out.

Observation on Earth's Axis Shift by Scientists and Research Agencies:

- ▶ 1. A study in the *Journal Science Advances*, April 11, 2016, the scientists have observed that due to the

climate change and global warming, the polar melting ice sheet and natural changes in water storage on land cause the pole to shift, thereby tilting the axis of earth east ward.

- ▶ 2. The scientists and researchers of NASA said that on the earth since water can be transported in and out of the ocean to land affecting global means, sea levels can also change the Moment of Inertia of the earth about its axis, thereby leading to the tilting of spinning earth and resulting in the shifting of earth's axis.
- ▶ 3. The National Institute of Geophysics and Volcanology in Italy said that a severe earthquake in Japan on April 20, 2011 of 8 to 9 magnitude moved the main Island of Japan by 8 feet, thereby causing a shift in the earth's axis by 4 inches.
- ▶ 4. The south pole acts as a gyroscope anchor to balance earth's axis, but melting of ice at the south pole due to global warming alters planetary balance, thereby causing sea level to rise along with an increase in humidity.
- ▶ 5. The earth's axis has undergone a significant shift in December, 2004. There was a sudden imbalance in Nature causing the Indonesian tsunami, thereby leading to the death of a quarter million people.
- ▶ 6. Since 2004, the sun is rising and setting "North" of USA in June, and the fact that the sun is "South" of Africa and Australia in December establishes the fact that there is an axis shift of the earth.
- ▶ 7. The scientists have also recorded that significant shift of axis occurred in the years 2004, 2006, 2011, 2013, 2014. In the year 2015, the axis of the earth reversed to the 2006 position of 850 miles from the normal position (Normal position of earth's axis is 23.5 degrees tilted w.r.t the orbital plane that includes the sun and the earth).

From the above observations, we find that the natural cleansing process has already started and Nature will continue this process until the earth becomes a pure place once again – a place where human beings should live in harmony with Nature obeying the inevitable divine laws operating in the whole cosmic universe. ❖



SHIVA AND MAHA SHIVRATRI



– **B.K.Priyanka Udasi,**
Amravati (Maha.)

Incorporeal God Shiva is ever Perfect
and Pure,
And He is also the Lord, Absolute
and Almighty.
To win over the Devil, His divine
children are sure,
Who then will become a divine deity.

Shiv Baba is the Ocean of Spiritual
Knowledge,
Which is not taught at all in any
school or college.
He is also the Ocean of Peace and
Love,
And far more peaceful than a dove.

The innumerable qualities of Baba,
full of Power,
Cannot be written if the earth can be
paper,
And if ink can be all the Oceans'
water
And all trees are made pens to write
ever.

Highest of all authorities is our
Beloved Baba,
On His descent *MAHA SHIVRATRI*
festival is observed;
He is the Sun of Knowledge; His
rays are everywhere scattered;
With His divine glaze, all sins and
vices are dispersed.

INTEGRATING SPIRITUALITY IN EDUCATION AND LIFE: THE GOAL OF TRUE EDUCATION

–B. K. Sujoy, Durgapur

“Education is the great engine of personal development, it is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.” – Nelson Mandela

Education is of two types – knowing about the world and knowing the self. Our current system of education is focused on teaching us about the world out there. But as one grows older, he realizes that it is even more important to understand the self – to learn about the fears and anxieties, understand the weaknesses, and to learn how to bring out the best in self. Our ancient system of education seemed to have balanced these two aspects well. But current education systems are designed to give us qualifications to secure a job and seem to have lost the focus on ‘inner education’. True education is one which helps us to understand our inner conflicts, encourage creative and constructive use of mind, and learn how to optimize life and not be a victim of situations. True education enables us to be creative and to grow in our life. Education is just not for giving us livelihood but giving us the art of living wholly and joyously.

God has endowed all human beings with the gift of mind which is the initiator of all our aspirations and ambitions. It is the quality of mind that differentiates human beings from the brutal. Hence, the training of mind is of paramount importance in our life. But, it has been vastly observed that our educational institutions, which impart education to young ones, hardly put any emphasis on the moral and spiritual education of the young folk.

Bertrand Russell, a great philosopher of twentieth century, believed that the aim of education is to form positive mental habits and outlook on life and the world. He said that education should not stuff our mind with facts but it should develop our mind because this world is to be understood through the mind. The real aim of education is to broaden the area of human mind and human nature. It should help build up a strong and disciplined mind which would control our

activities and channelize our desires and impulses. It will enable us to beautify the otherwise ugly environment and would give infinite peace to the possessor.

Learning from experience, letting go of the past, and connecting to people despite difference are the important ingredients that come from true learning. Walt Disney failed many times but learnt the right lessons and, hence, turned failure into success. If we cultivate the uplifting meaning of experience, then, we can learn a lot from failures.

Also, one has to learn the art of ending one’s past and not constantly fret and fume over it. Instead of carrying the pain of failure we should end that incident in our mind. If we carry the burden of yesterday, the present will be spoiled.

The third point is connecting to people despite differences. If we can still bond with the person we disagree, it builds our

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CELEBRATING NATURE WITH A DIFFERENCE



– Dr. B.K. Yudhisthir, Ph.D.,
Shantivan

All of us celebrate various fairs and festivals with a lot of ritualistic fervours of different religions and cultures. Well, some of us also celebrate the beauty, diversity and grandeur of Nature.

This article gives an opportune occasion for all of us to understand ‘celebration’ as a ‘value’ and to ‘Celebrate Nature’ with a difference, with a uniqueness of its *new meaning, import and significance*.

In order to *Celebrate Nature* with a difference, *new import, meaning, significance*, we have to

understand the three very important agencies of the vast Creation: Man (*Purusha*), Nature (*Prakriti*) and God (*Param Purusha*).

1. The vast cosmic Creation is an Eternal World Drama (EWD) of life in which Man, Nature and God play their eternal roles, and make the Creation and the World-Cycle run in a cyclic/circular and repetitive manner in every *Kalpa* a period of 5000 years. **The history and geography of the world repeats exactly *Kalpa* after *Kalpa* without any interruption and intervention!**

2. Man, Nature and God play their apportioned roles perfectly to create ‘harmony’ in the universe, world and earth.

3. When there is perfect *harmony* among the three agencies of Creation, the **real celebration** is possible and actually happens because *harmony gives us peace, purity, prosperity and health, wealth, happiness*.

4. Disharmony takes away all these from us, and then we are in no mood to celebrate at all. *Moreover, disharmony among the three agencies leads to chaos, confusion and the ultimate destruction.*

The new meaning of Nature:

Generally, we people, in our utter ignorance, consider Nature to be only the outer five elements of physical Nature. This is a very narrow and limited understanding or partial and incomplete truth. The *new import and meaning* denotes that Nature is of three kinds in consonance with the three kinds of agencies of Man, Nature and God. In order to *Celebrate Nature* in true spirit, we have to know and understand the three kinds of Nature as explained below:

(i) The term ‘**Man**’ refers to all ‘human beings’ of the



humanity and the 'human nature'. A person is basically a combination or composition of both the body and soul/spirit/self. The soul has three components such as mind (*Mana*), the thinking faculty; intellect (*Buddhi*), the judging faculty; and impression (*sanskara*), the recording faculty. Human nature is the sum total of what all these faculties do, i.e., the composition of all conscious and/or subconscious thoughts, feelings, emotions and actions of human being/soul.

(ii) Elemental Nature refers to outer material/physical nature - the five elements such as earth, water, air, fire and ether; it acts like a mother and provides all our needs for physical sustenance and necessities of life. But, unfortunately and ignorantly we loot, plunder, and destroy the Mother Nature shamelessly and accumulate things more than our need due to our ignoble and abominable greed and voluptuous consumption patterns. We add to soil, water, air and noise pollutions due to our bad habits of consumerism culture and nihilistic nature, and also add to global warming by

increasing green house gases through our nasty consumption patterns. How can we love and celebrate Nature when we deliberately contribute to utmost environmental pollution, deterioration and degradation by destroying the ecological balance with our careless and crude nature? What do we learn after seeing so many recent earthquakes, tsunamis, tornadoes, typhoons and hurricanes, forest fires, gas tragedies of Bhopal and Upahar Cinema, nuclear holocausts of Hiroshima and Nagasaki, the toppling of the World Tower in New York by the terrorist and extreme activities of fundamentalists like late Osama bin Laden and his more bloody successors and others? Unless we, ignorant human beings, love, foster, save and take care of Nature that loves, fosters and takes care of us, she herself will destroy us in the form of so many natural calamities and disasters. So, it is the high time now not to sleep carelessly and ignorantly any longer but to open *the third divine eye of spiritual knowledge* in order to "know thyself" and know God and achieve thereby the

foremost aim and objective of human life: ***self-realization and God-realization for self-transformation and world-transformation.***

(iii) Super Nature refers to God, the Supreme Supernatural Being, of the sixth element, called the metaphysical world, a above the five element world. We should know the truth about God and His name (*Nama*), form (*Rupa*), abode (*Desh*), time of descent on the earth (*Kala*) and Divine tasks or actions (*Divya Kartavya*). His name (*Nama*) is Shiva/Sadashiva, the ever Benevolent One. Neither any corporeal human being nor any subtle (*Aakari* - with angelic body without flesh, blood and bones) deity being, can be called God. God is Incorporeal (*Nirakar*) - a point-of-conscient-and-divine-light in form (*Rupa*). He resides in His Metaphysical Abode (*ParamDham*) which is far beyond the physical/material world of sun, moon and stars and the outer space; that is why He is called The One Above (*Uparwala*) who descends down on the earth planet according to the version of *The Gita* in the

Purushottam Sangam Yuga/the Leap Yuga (*Kala*) - the Age of Transition or Confluence between the end of *Kaliyuga* and beginning of *Satyuga*, in order to liberate, redeem the human souls of their accumulated sins and vices of the present and past lives, and elevate them from the human stage to the deity (*Devi-Devata*) stage. Such time of the Leap Yuga is continuing now in which each and every human being can gain again all the qualities, values, virtues and powers from the Supreme Soul, the Spiritual God Father of all souls, as their birthright.

Praises of Nature by Man:

Poets, essayists, novelists, and dramatists of both the eastern and western world have written eloquently on Nature in leading a contented human life. William Wordsworth, the English romantic poet, considered and visualized Nature as a living spirit dwelling in parts and parcels of the environment and regarded her as the Mother and caretaker. P. B. Shelley, another romantic poet, invoked the West Wind, an element of Nature, saying, “O’ West Wind! Lift me as a leaf, a wave, a cloud; I fall upon the thorns of life, I bleed”, and he also wrote

the most prophetic line about the cyclic movement of seasons, “If winter comes, can spring be far behind?” John Keats, the other poet of the romantic era, also enjoyed fully the beauties of Nature and considered it as “a thing of beauty is joy forever”. S.T. Coleridge, the poet, while in the mid-sea wrote the famous line about water, another element of Nature, saying, “Water, water everywhere but not a drop to drink”. All the romantic poets are considered the worshippers of Nature because of their deep love and intimacy with Nature and its various parts.

In the eastern world, the Sanskrit poet and dramatist, Kalidas, in his epic poetic creations like *Meghdutam* and *Kumar Sambhavam* has depicted very succinctly the charms and beauties of Nature. There are many other such poets in other languages including Hindi who wrote hymns and praises of Nature in different styles and interpretations.

Man’s Present Lack of Concern for Nature

Man has lost concern for Nature with the advent of Industrial Revolution, scientific and technological advancement and mechanization of everything when the world is seen and

considered as a vast machine. Cut-throat competition for achieving material prosperity at the cost of Nature also started. As a result, man began to loot, plunder and exploit Nature blindly without any conscience and tried to use it not for satisfying his needs but for his abominable greed. Mahatma Gandhi once said, “*The world has everything enough for man’s need but nothing for his greed.*”

Because of the lack of concern for Nature, the human spirit of love, care and fostering nature has been lost completely thereby making him a veritable demon in man’s form, who has waged a war for voluntary depletion of Nature. The erstwhile *magnificent man* has now become a *melodramatic maniac*. Consequently, man has lost his *harmony* with it which led to gross ecological imbalance. This paradoxical human plight, meaningless and disharmonious living of man in utter disregard of Nature has been explicitly explained through the following famous poetic lines of T.S. Eliot, the modern English Poet:

“Where is the life we have lost
in living?
Where is the wisdom we have
lost in knowledge?
Where is the knowledge we
have lost in information?”

Rajyoga 'harmonizes' Man, Nature and God

Rajyoga practice is the only effective way to achieve and maintain 'harmony' among Man (soul), Nature (elements) and God. Rajyoga is the loving, mental, spiritual connection and communion of the soul with the Incorporeal Supreme Soul, the God Father of all souls through the use of our faculties of *mind (Mana)* and *intellect (Buddhi)*. Gradual Rajyoga practice will transport the soul/human consciousness from the gross physical/material world to the metaphysical Soul World, called *Nirvan Dham* where all the souls and the Supreme Soul God reside, and make the connection, union and communion of the soul with God. In other words, Rajyoga practically begins the spiritual process of change of vision and attitude through the 'we' feeling of 'belongingness' and 'harmony' among Man (soul), Nature (elements) and God (the Supernatural Being).

Let us take a voluntary oath to achieve and maintain 'harmony' in all walks and spheres of our life by practising Rajyoga and obeying the social laws, natural laws, moral and spiritual laws, universal/cosmic laws, in order to *Celebrate Nature and Our Life* with true

meaning, significance and spirit.

In order to harmonize with Nature and celebrate Nature in true spirit we have to understand the meaning of the term NATURE as an acronym. The term **NATURE** as an *acronym* suggests that it *Nourishes and Nurtures* all with its provisions; *Accepts* all without any discrimination; *Trusts* all without any doubt; *Uplifts* all equally without any difference; *Refreshes and Rejoices* all with its natural resources; and *Embraces* all without any hesitation.

In order to establish and experience the harmonious relationship with the whole cosmic universe, we have to establish and experience the following harmonies such as:

- ▶ 1. Harmony among Man (soul), Nature (elements)

and God.

- ▶ 2. Harmony in individual/man (soul/self) and his own nature including three faculties - mind, intellect and impression (*sanskars*).
- ▶ 3. Harmony among one's thoughts, words and actions.
- ▶ 4. Harmony between soul and body
- ▶ 5. Harmony in Family and among family members
- ▶ 6. Harmony in Society (at home, work places, clubs, playgrounds, groups, institutions, etc.) and its individual members
- ▶ 7. Harmony in Nature and among its Elements with 'clean mind, green earth'
- ▶ 8. Harmony among various castes, colours, creeds, faiths, beliefs, languages, religions, genders, nationalities, etc. ❖

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maturity. Such a person is effective in communication; he is truly an educated person.

But, what we see today is that young people finish their courses of study, pass out from colleges, grow in age, and yet do not know the fundamentals of life or its meaning. The so-called educated man shows a complete lack of real goodness and virtue. The goal of education is not merely material comfort, but inner growth and culture to help cultivate virtues of humility, self-control, compassion, patience and forgiveness. These he can cultivate only when one realizes his real true nature of peace, purity and love. It is high time that the educational institutions strive to attain the goal of true education, viz. integrating spirituality in education and life. ❖

SIMILAR LESSONS IN THE GITA AND MURLI

– B.K. C. M. Bindal, Jaipur

The highest religious scripture known as *The Bhagavad Gita* teaches us how to live in this world, do our duty and yet remain like a lotus above the surface of water. Similarly, The Supreme Soul Shiv Baba (*Parampita Parmatma*) is directly teaching us all the ways of living a wholesome life and what we should do from dawn to dusk and up to the time we go to bed. In short, *The Bhagavad-Gita's* few teachings vis-à-vis BABA's teachings through *Murli* are summarized below for easy consummation of the knowledge.

FIRST LESSON:

Who are we? Because most of the problems arise when we tend to identify ourselves with our physical personalities. The scriptures make it clear that the body is unreal and it is like a garment worn by the self. We are actually the spiritual selves. The individual self that exists in each of us is real and permanent and it is immortal and indestructible.

SECOND LESSON:

Our mind is the seat of our

desires, thoughts and feelings. Our wandering senses keep our mind in a state of turmoil. An unstable mind is characterized by egoistic thinking and desire-ridden actions. A man with unstable mind is not fit for liberation. His consciousness keeps wandering around sense objects and remains entangled in the distractions of the world. Through self-discipline, a devotee can control the activity of the senses, develop detachment from the sense objects and achieve calmness. With the attainment of calmness in mind, all his sorrows would come to an end. He can then establish his mind in God and achieve union with Him.

THIRD LESSON:

By merely restraining our senses and controlling our minds, we will not be able to free ourselves from the cycle of birth, death and rebirth because none can escape from activity or remain inactive even for a moment when playing one's role remaining in the body. Whosoever is born on the earth, is helplessly driven to action by his inborn qualities. Thus one

should perform one's obligatory duties. While performing his duties, he should not have any attachment with the work he is doing. He should not have any desire for the fruit of actions. He knows various methods through which sacrifices are performed. Through knowledge, he becomes free from the bondage of action. His action is burnt up in the fire of wisdom and through knowledge he attains peace.

FOURTH LESSON:

As none can escape from activity or remain inactive even for a moment, whoever is born on earth is helplessly driven to action by his in-born qualities. One should perform his obligatory duty, as action is superior to inaction. While performing duties he should not think that he is the doer, nor he should have any attachment for the work he is doing. A wise person acts without attachment.

FIFTH LESSON;

A *Karmayogi* performs actions only with his senses, mind, intellect and body, focusing on his inner purification and offering the fruits of his actions to God. Thus, one attains peace in the form of self-realisation. He becomes one with God and attains liberation. He remains the same amidst heat and cold, pleasure and pain, honour and dishonour. For him, a clod of

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GOD: THE OCEAN OF LOVE

– B.K. Yogesh Kumar, Delhi

Love is considered to be a great power which is said to give a new life to people. It turns impossible into possible. It is also believed that true and unconditional love leads one to happiness. Experience says that when one's expectations of love are not fulfilled, one tends to commit immoral acts such as infidelity or extramarital affairs, divorces, murders, suicides, etc.

False Notion of Love

All these acts happen because human beings have failed to understand true love in its true sense. In the mirage of modernity, today, due to body-consciousness most people consider physical love to be the real love. Obscenity in films is also largely responsible for it. Even though such a love fulfils one's sensual desires, but, in the long run, it proves to be dangerous. Today, people have become so much busy and self-centred that they cannot fulfil the love at even emotional level as the soul has become completely weak. Since death is considered to be the only truth and inevitable in man's life, it

must be realised that everything what one sees including one's body is temporary. Therefore, considering lust as true love is quite an illusion. Thus, instead of running after physical love, people must understand true love in its real sense and make it the adornment of their life.

Understanding of True Love

One may ask: what is real love? We often say 'God is love' or 'Love is God'. This is a very common belief because God is love-full and never hates anyone. He is called the Ocean of Love, the Ocean of Purity, the most Benevolent, the Almighty and our Supreme Father. His love is divine and spiritual. He doesn't want us to live a distressed and depressed life which we, in general, are leading at present. He too wants us to be Master Ocean of love and love each other as divine beings, which is possible only if we understand and experience what true love is all about. And, then only, we can have a peaceful, joyful and happy life.

Valentine Day

The 14th day of February is

celebrated to commemorate the death anniversary of a great lover of mankind, Saint Valentine of Rome, Italy. People exchange gifts, spend special moments with each other and some express their love-filled feelings to their loved ones. But, despite celebrating this festival for years, real love is found wanting in our lives. There are very few couples in the world today who are leading a life of mutual trust and love in today's world.

Love is one of the basic virtues of souls. It is a finer emotion among family members, friends, colleagues, classmates, students and teachers, etc. From a broader perspective, true love is the expression of love towards every human being; it is divine love that is devoid of any bodily or physical feeling because body is mortal whereas pure or divine love is eternal. Selfless love inspires us to love all the human beings equally and unconditionally. It is due to absence of this love that, today, we are witnessing the world fallen apart due to the undue and evil expression of the feelings of hatred, anger, mistrust and violence in us.

Knowledge bestowed by God, the Ocean of Love

The Supreme Soul, God Father Shiva, reveals our original identity and secrets of the World

Drama through the corporeal medium of Prajapita Brahma. He reminds us that originally we were divine souls; but during the process of taking birth after birth, we started identifying ourselves with bodies and began to depend on sensual pleasures to attain happiness and peace. It is because of body-consciousness that we souls have already become vicious, thereby losing our basic essential virtues such as Knowledge, Purity, Peace, Love, Happiness, Bliss and Power. The impurity of vices has made us impure, sorrowful and sinful, thus, completely weak. Rajyoga practice helps to realise the self as a soul and remember God, the Supreme Father, constantly even while performing actions. This mental link of soul with the Supreme Soul strengthens the soul.

God further reveals that due to our ignorance on the path of *Bhakti* we mistakenly called Him omnipresent and, thus, believed Him to be present in all the creatures of the world, and, thus, started belittling Him. Yet, being the Ocean of Forgiveness and Love, He forgives all our faults and accepts us as we are. He lovingly teaches us so that we can become completely virtuous like Him. As the Supreme Teacher, He teaches us the art of pure and spiritual love.

Love – the only lesson to make us complete

The process of World Transformation has to happen at a fast pace now. In order to make us pure and eligible to have a good status in the forthcoming new age, God is advising us to have our intellect constantly and lovingly linked to Him through constant and regular Rajyoga practice.

The most important lesson that God wants us to learn is to develop pure and spiritual love. A beautiful vision of love is to develop a pure consciousness of realising the self and others as spiritual beings (i.e. souls) and, thus, not getting influenced by the physical form. Love for God can change our vicious propensities into positive ones and it changes the way we look at others. By developing true love for God, all our negative weaknesses and shortcomings can be conquered easily and transformed into positive powers.

Let us recognise and understand the Supreme Father, God Shiva, the Ocean of Love, and experience His Love, always remaining under His canopy of protection and making the self as loving as He is. That will be the true celebration of Valentine Day.

So, from now onwards, let's make God Shiva, our true and

most beloved Valentine! Wish you all a Godly Valentine Day! ❖

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earth or a piece of gold is the same. He is equal minded among friends and foes, and among the saints and sinners alike.

SIXTH LESSON:

One should remember God at all times, with mind and intellect absorbed in Him. By constant practice of yoga, without thinking anything else, constantly meditating upon Him, he attains the Supreme Divine. Fools do not recognize Him, but wise know His true nature and worship Him with unwavering devotion.

SEVENTH LESSON:

For devotees who worship Him and always think of Him, God takes care of their wants and needs and looks after their welfare. Whatever is offered to the Supreme Lord with love and pure devotion, is accepted by Him. Such devotee is very dear to God and He takes care of such devotee in every possible way. The body is made up of five elements of nature, the intellect, the unexpressed nature, the ten senses, the mind and the five objects of the senses. The knower of the body resides in the body as the indwelling soul. ❖

BRAHMA KUMARIS ORGANIZATION

GIVE TRUE KNOWLEDGE AND UNDERSTANDING

— BK Dr. Swapan Rudra, Durgapur (W.B.)

Knowledge goes a long way in bringing change in the society and the world. Only knowledge and understanding level in right order can change any society. Though knowledge level differs from person to person and the average understanding sustains the society accordingly. But how could we be the people with better understanding? There is no fixed time to acquire this quality in the life of a human being. We all pass through different stages in a lifetime and our understanding level gradually increases with our age growth. But, many times, the expectation of attaining maturity in understanding in later ages does not match and perhaps this is the major cause of degradation of the younger generations. Then, it seems to be in mind that maturity does not come only with age, it needs something other. When understanding level of average people becomes low, society remains relatively in immature stage beyond our perception. Maturity of an older member in a family is not only

an important factor for that family but also for the neighbour, surroundings and other places wherever he/she goes. Maturity in younger age is always an extra benefit to the family and society. Often in a tender age, good understanding at any critical moment may come automatically as a result of good *sanskars* that is not even expected from the age old persons in the same situation. Social damage or instability in a nation is not only due to the exotic factors, but, most of the time, it is because of internal cause of low level of understanding.

The earth rotates on its axis in accurate order. Seasons change due to its revolution around the sun in its fixed axial inclination. But, on this earth, our days do not always run in order; some days may be pleasant for some but painful for others. Disorder always brings chaos in human life, making the families turbulent, the effect of which is reflected in the society. Very few persons take the responsibility of removing chaos from the society and,

hence, they set a very good example by their tireless efforts in giving service to others. Brahma Kumaris Organisation (BKO) is an excellent place of true education, aiming at self-development of all the individuals without any discrimination of caste, creed or religion. This is the only University named as Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, the syllabus of which is completely different from others and where God is the Supreme Teacher. It is really unbelievable to them who are yet to get the opportunity to enter in this spiritual University where anyone may take admission without any academic qualification. Godly knowledge helps to rectify ourselves in day-to-day life and in this purification process God transforms the human beings into deities through revelation of original qualities of souls such as power, purity, happiness, peace, love, knowledge and bliss. Swami Vivekananda has rightly said, “Each soul is potentially divine; the only way is to manifest the same by changing the nature,

both internal and external”. What a vast knowledge and great understanding Swamiji had only at an age of 32 years! Long before Swamiji, Jesus Christ and Shankaracharya did miraculous job for the society nearly at the same age. Better understanding is not a matter of chance; it’s a matter of choice that comes from exceptional thoughts and superb feelings. It is an inherited quality of some persons and acquired in few cases. Majority in ordinary thinking level can not even imagine the necessity of knowledge and understanding for the true benefit of the self, other people and society as a whole. Rabindranath Tagore and Mahatma Gandhi are always in our mind not only for their extraordinary knowledge and understanding but for their capacity to pour the same into the running streams of the society. APJ Abdul Kalam will be remembered as a beautiful personality for his exceptional knowledge and extraordinary thinking both in science and sociology. Some beautiful lines Dr. Kalam usually quoted are as follows:

“Where there is righteousness in the heart, there is beauty in the character. Where there is beauty in the character, there is harmony in the hope. Where there is harmony in the hope, there is order in the nation.

Where there is order in the nations, there is peace in the world.”

The great personalities possess high quality of understanding because their inside treasure box is filled with power, purity, truth and wisdom. No person is ordinary; we all are unique in some sense or the other and are playing our own roles in this vast world drama. We always compare ourselves with some toppers in various fields like sports, music, literature, science, etc. and, by means of unhealthy comparison, we make ourselves inferior. We invite frustration, agony and pain inside, leading to anxiety and depression. We just add pain to pain and lose our self-confidence and self-esteem. Then, where from the power of positive thoughts and understanding will come? I have to realize my strength and ability and then I can choose any option for better performance. Once I make myself aware of my limitations, I will never be in a false position. Once I fix my goal according to my capacity, I will succeed in my own way. But, if it is just to earn money and status by any means, I can not sense the success I presumed. We may continue living such life as the majority of people prefer at present, but life will not be full of peace and happiness.

Normally, we spend our days according to our desire which is generated from our own thoughts. If we are only concerned about what is advantageous and profitable for us, we will never be careful about what is right. Gradually, we could be far away from truth and idealism, the crisis of which is most prevalent now.

Long ago William Shakespeare showed the path of getting success by three sentences: 1. Know more than others 2. Work more than others 3. Expect less than others. Only a few persons follow the great personalities or saints and, hence, still now we are surviving on this earth by virtue of a little bit of patience and tolerance. Every human being has the potential to be virtuous and to lead a qualitative life. As soon as I know myself as a soul, automatically the soul’s qualities radiate in rainbow form and then I can achieve the eight self-controlling powers and become an enriched human being with transparent knowledge and clear understanding. In *Bhakti* cult, so far we have prayed to God or other deities to make us good through blessings, but, in Brahma Kumaris Organization (BKO), we choose to be good through our personal self-transformation. Actually, we are the bundles of

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the destruction, to lie in the state of *Nirvan*, i.e., in a peaceful state of speechlessness.

In sum, God is not Omnipresent, as is popularly believed. He is only a subtle invisible flame, whose abode is far away in the sixth element named *Brahma Tatva*. His real sweet name is Shiva, the Doer of Good, which is symbolic, in the sense that the Supreme Soul stands to the human soul in the three fundamental relationships of Supreme Father, Teacher and Guide – all in one, which, even in the worldly sense, are considered to be essentially beneficial. And that is why, He has been sung in the scriptures as:

Thou art Mother and Father
Supreme,
Thou art our Teacher, Giver of
knowledge Supreme,
Thou art our All, O Soul
Supreme!

Descent of the Supreme Soul Shiva

The question that arises is: “How and when does the Supreme Soul actually appear to perform His self-assigned beneficial functions?” The answer is that being incorporeal and also free from the bondage of birth and death, He adopts a corporeal medium, through whom He imparts knowledge about Himself and acts as a Guide, Teacher and Preceptor. In

other words, He descends onto the body of an ordinary old man and gives His teachings through him. He names this person as Prajapita Brahma and endows him with divine vision and qualities so as to create a powerful impact on those of His children who are drawn to Him, as it were, like a needle to a magnet.

And this Divine Descent or Birth of God Shiva takes place at a time when He is needed the most, i.e., when the world touches the lowest depths of degradation, sin and misery and the appearance of the Redeemer is urgently called for, as is also written in *The Gita*. The Supreme Soul appears at the end of every 5000 years to bring about the re-establishment of the order of *Satyuga*, the era of peace and felicity and annihilation of the order of *Kaliyuga*, the era of sin and vice, in the *Purushottama Sangam Yuga*. This divine descent, advent or divine birth of God Shiva into the body of Prajapita Brahma is celebrated as “*Shivratri*”.

Divine Functions of the Supreme Soul

As a result of these divine acts performed by God Father Shiva, the vast majority of sinful souls, after suffering punishments, attain *Mukti* (liberation) and revert to *Param Dham* or *Nirvan Dham*, where they lie dormant in a state of peace and silence. The few

souls, who, after receiving the Godly knowledge through Prajapita Brahma, have purified themselves and extinguished their sins by constant remembrance of God Father Shiva, attain *Jeevan Mukti* or, in other words, are elevated by Him to deity status, as a reward of their earnest endeavours to uplift themselves. They also revert to *Param Dham*, from where, after a short while, they pass on to the *Satyugi world* to relive through 21 lives in perfect peace, purity, bliss and felicity according to the status they have attained in the celestial hierarchy.

At the head of this spiritual hierarchy stand Prajapita Brahma, and also Jagadamba Saraswati, who are subsequently reborn in *Satyuga* and reign together as sovereigns in the beginning of the *Satyuga* as Shri Narayana and Shri Lakshmi, succeeded by eight generations of their descendants. This Golden period runs uninterruptedly for 1250 years, under the name of *Suryavanshi* dynasty. Then follows *Treta Yuga* with the peaceful reign of Shri Rama and Shri Sita, which is proverbial even to this day under the name of ‘Ram Rajya’. Twelve generations of their dynasty, known as *Chandra Vanshi*, rule Bharat undisturbed for another 1250 years. With the passage of time, however, this bliss and

felicity begins to deteriorate gradually at first, but sharply thereafter, as a result of their godliness becoming diluted by the inroads of body-consciousness.

Maya, the great temptress, continues corrupting the lives of people until at last, they begin to succumb to the five great vices - sex, anger, avarice, attachment and last but not least, arrogance. These vices bring sin, misery and pain while to get release from them, people resort to the practice of all kinds of sacrifices and austerities and seek relief in the fruitless study of scriptures — *Vedas* and *Shastras*— and practise various cults and forms. The *Bhakti* cult, in course of time, comes to dominate all the rest. Despite all this, the moral and spiritual decline of man continues progressively during the next 2500 years until, at last, he reaches the end of *Kaliyuga* in his moral dismal, degenerated and degraded state. At this crucial stage, the Incorporeal Supreme Soul Shiva, for the purpose of reviving the divine faith and re-establishing the reigns of righteousness, Himself descends from His eternal abode, and uses a human conduit to impart training of Rajyoga meditation to human souls, thereby restoring them to their former state of pristine glory

and celestial sovereignty. At the end of the cycle, the world undergoes transformation through natural calamities, endemic civil strife, and through nuclear and thermo-nuclear bombs and missiles - the self-created engines of ultimate self-destruction.

God Shiva – Our Loving Father, Guide And Teacher, All In One

In sum, God is our Teacher, because He teaches us *Gyan* and *Yoga*. He is our Guide and Preceptor because He teaches us to attain *Mukti* and *Jeevan-Mukti* and above all, He is our loving Father, because He actually comes to take us back to our real abode. It is a great pity indeed that while we keep chanting His name as such through the ages, we are so sadly unaware of the significance of this vital Father-

Guide-Teacher relationship, as also the fact that He does come to meet us at a scheduled period. Is it any wonder then that, due to lack of this sublime knowledge, we cheat ourselves of the rich rewards that might be ours, if only we know?

From the foregoing, it is clear that the present time is the fag end of the Iron Age and the dawn of the Golden Age, in that the human souls are in the firm grip of sins and vices and have become totally devoid of Godliness in consequence. The human world has become enveloped in misery due to lack of peace and its destruction is imminent. The Supreme Soul Shiva has already descended and is imparting divine knowledge. It is for us to be awake and to take our divine inheritance from the Father. This is the real significance of “*Shivratri*”. ❖

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our thoughts, and our destiny is not a chance, but a choice. The Brahma Kumaris Organization has brought some very simple lessons, i.e., **power to accept everyone as they are; forgive and forget; past is past; from self-change to world change,** etc. before the public to discuss and to extract the essence of these lessons, and to taste it in the practical life. These lessons are not new, but are very useful for our life. If we try, we can follow the same and slowly our vision and attitude will be changed, formatting us with good understanding, thereby giving benefit to the whole humanity. ❖