

|| From the mighty pen of Sanjay ||

THE MOST IMPORTANT EPISODE IN WORLD HISTORY

If an event spills over, in its effect, the national boundaries of a country, we call it an event of 'global importance', and if it changes people's current mode of living or their view of life and the cosmos, we term it as 'epoch-making'. In a similar manner, if a person gives to the people of his time a courageous lead to reach new goals, or formulates a new concept or new ideological system that brings tremendous changes in socio-economic, political or religious thought, we call him 'the harbinger of a new age'. Measured with this yardstick, the number of persons, whose acts can be considered as events of 'global importance' or whose ideas can be termed as 'epoch-making' will not be more than a few dozen or, at the most, a few hundred people from all countries and all fields of life. If we carry out the process of sifting further, applying the criterion whether these persons and events brought about, in the net result, an era of happiness and security or gave rise to turbulence and turmoil, the number of persons who really sowed the orchards of peace

and security, would be very small indeed. Smaller still would be the number of those events and persons who not merely brought about massive changes in socio-economic, political and cultural system but made, at the same time, a valuable contribution towards raising the moral and ethical standards of people to great heights, greatly enriched the spiritual experience of a large number of men and women, made a deep and lasting impact on all the major aspects of life, and, in this matter, formed a class by themselves individually.

Out of the galaxy of such great people of rare virtue, whose portraits of character, concepts, convictions and courage adorn the galleries of history, it would be difficult, nay, impossible to single out, with unanimity, a person and an event which has, on all accounts, the honour and distinction of being the most outstanding of all. But it cannot be denied that the event that made this world the veritable paradise, once upon a time, if ever it did, and the person who caused it, should be considered the most superb and unique or what one may choose to term

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MAHA SHIVRATRI CELEBRATIONS

Bharat is God's chosen land of reincarnation on completion of the duration of each cycle of 5000 years. We have been blessed again with spiritual renewal of human consciousness. Undoubtedly, we live in a vast world full of a variety of religions and cults, thousands of customs and systems that celebrate human life, all creating a wonderful, colourful scenario so enchanting that it becomes very difficult to differentiate between reality and virtual reality (*Maya*)... Over the centuries, we have been celebrating Maha Shivratri with lot of devotion but, although the strange rituals have kept our faith in tact year after year, we hardly dare to know the spiritual and emotional significance of these celebrations, especially from a perspective of applied spirituality. Though we are at the pinnacle of scientific age, we still continue to follow our faiths with full devotion to God and fear of the unknown.

Now, in order to remove that age-old ignorance and herald a new age of spiritual awakening, the 'descent' of God the

Supreme Benefactor, Father of all souls, took place through Brahma Baba in 1936. In the memory of this divine reincarnation of God, Mahashivratri is celebrated every year. Ever since then, He has been revealing the Truth about Himself and the three aspects of His creation, the eternal world drama in which we, human souls, are playing our eternal, respective roles life after life. While enacting our respective roles from the beginning of *Satyuga* until now (end of *Kaliyuga*), we lost sight of our own real selves, our inherent divine nature and become slaves of spiritual ignorance leading to negative ways of thinking and interacting. God's reincarnation is a boon for the entire human race enabling them to re-awaken internally and re-start living rightly based on the inherited Godly wisdom, and divine customs and systems. Unwanted, unethical and wasteful practices have to be eschewed to enhance divinity, quality living in peace and harmony based on the realization that our Supreme

Father is 'One God' and we are 'One Spiritual World Family'. This is the most powerful spiritual concept, which once understood rightly and accepted in day-to-day life can transform this *Kaliyugi* world of ignorance and strife into authentic heaven or *Satyuga*.

Maha Shivratri conveys the message of oneness and purity in life, peace among nations, love among families and communities, goodwill towards each other, and the beauty in being truthful and sweet in behaviour, and freedom from the vices in every thought. This would help in maintaining a soul-conscious outlook and very deep, loving relationship with the Almighty God Father Shiva to receive His Blessings in the form of fruition (*Jeevan-Mukti*) for 21 lives after returning to the abode of Mukti or Paramdham. The practice of pure thinking and God-consciousness naturally helps us regain our lost spiritual and divine personages. As preparation for celebrating Maha Shivratri as enlightened souls, we Brahma *Vatsas* have been bestowed with very powerful messages on 18th January and 2nd February 2012, in addition to the regular daily teachings (*Murlis*). We share with our readers an essence of the same as invaluable spiritual gifts for Maha Shivratri:

ESSENCE OF DIVINE MESSAGES:

Together with doing all types of service, be co-operative with one another and spread a wave of intense effort into the atmosphere. Become a conqueror of the mind and serve souls with your mind. (18th January 2012)

“The Father was seeing the children with the vision of making the children into masters. Today is the day of the children receiving the *tilak* of sovereignty. Today is the day when BapDada Himself stayed in the angelic form and made children into instruments for world service. He Himself became the *backbone* and revealed the children on the world stage. Now, seeing the children’s service, seeing the *result* of the responsibility that BapDada gave to the children, He is very, very pleased with the children and is congratulating them from His heart.

“Now every child should have this zeal and enthusiasm and determined faith for making intense effort: I definitely have to become an angel, equal to the Father Brahma, because everyone has now to make the *return journey* with the Father. All of you have promised: We will return home together and come to rule together. All of you saw that, even though Father Brahma had so many responsibilities, he remained loving and detached. He always

remained a carefree emperor, no worries. In the same way, you children also have to become equal to the Father.

“Become complete and make others complete; have enthusiasm in yourself and spread that zeal and enthusiasm into the atmosphere. Be co-operative with one another and spread a wave of intense effort into the atmosphere.

“If you have ever had any waste thoughts then you would have experienced how so much of your *time* and *energy* is *wasted*. **For two months, each child should create a method for the self to stop the wastage of thoughts and time that take place through the mind.** Each one of you should keep your *chart*: How much *control* did I have over wastage of time and waste thoughts? According to the time, it will be time for all of you to serve souls with the power of your mind. For this, it is necessary to pay constant *attention* to your mind. It is said: Those who conquer the mind conquer the world. So, in the atmosphere of *Manmanabhav*, you have to

finish all wastage. If your mind is happy, you will share the happiness of your mind.

“Become a double king. One is to be a self-sovereign, a master of the self and the second is to have a right to the future kingdom. Be a master of the self... The Father has the intoxication that there is no other father whose every child is a master of the self. You are not influenced by the physical organs and senses, but you have a right to the kingdom. BapDada has given you two tasks: 1) To what extent you remain a master of the self for the next two months. 2) With the *controlling power* and *ruling power* of the mind, you have to finish all wastage.

“BapDada sees that everyone has love, but, together with that, you also need power. For this, make *amritvela powerful*. You sit for remembrance but a powerful atmosphere is needed to sit in. Everyone does make effort, but now, add the word ‘intense’ in front of the word ‘effort’. Your mind should only have the thoughts you want it to have.”

Become an *authority* of the experience of being an embodiment of remembrance. (2nd February 2012)

“As soon as you hear of the word ‘self-respect’, the different titles of self-respect come into your awareness; do they not? Just remember how great your self-respect is in the **eternal form**. Each one’s self-respect is: **I am a sparkling soul with the Father**. In the sky, too, some stars have a special sparkle. In the same way, because of being with the Father, you are sparkling souls. Now, stabilise yourself in that eternal form in a *second*, for one *second*.

“Perform this drill: See your form at the beginning of the Golden Age. It is such an elevated form: **An embodiment of happiness**. It is a form of being an embodiment of all attainments. There is no name or trace of sorrow. Even the elements are beautiful and ontological (*satoguni*). Just experience your deity form! Whether someone is a king, a great soul or a politician, have you seen anyone who is an embodiment of all attainments?

“In the Copper Age, **your self-respect is of being worthy of worship**. Everyone worships you with so much devotion and discipline. No one else is worshipped with such

discipline. Whether someone is the founder of a religion, a guru, a politician or an actor, no one else is worshipped with such discipline.

“Now, come to the Confluence Age. You are those who have a right to self-sovereignty; are you not? At the Confluence Age, **God Himself, the Master Himself, fills the lives of you children with the speciality of purity**. This purity is the mine of all types of imperishable happiness. Even now, you have received as practical proof the property of purity from the Father. Purity is the basis of all attainments. All of you have become *master* almighty authorities through purity.

“Some children say: God the Father has given all the powers, but the power that we need sometimes comes a little time later; it comes when the situation is over. What is the reason for that? **You are not seated on the seat of the awareness of being a master almighty authority**. An order is only obeyed when it is given by someone seated on the seat of his position. Whenever you order any power, first check: Am I seated on the seat of awareness/self-respect?

Stabilise yourself on the seat of awareness and all the powers are bound to come to you at the time of need because the Almighty Authority Father has made you *master* almighty authorities.

“Where will you go after the Confluence Age? You will be on the *return journey*; will you not? This is why BapDada wants each one of you to continue to perform this *exercise* throughout the day. Make time for this again and again.

“Seeing the conditions of the delicate times, you were also told earlier that volcanic yoga which will do *double* work is needed now. Firstly, you will be able to cremate your old *sanskars*. At present, you kill your *sanskars*, but you do not burn them. Even after killing them, they sometimes awaken. Just as Ravan is not just killed, but also burnt, in the same way, you have to cremate your old *sanskars*, which, every now and again, reduce your intense effort. Through volcanic yoga you become a form of *light* and *might* and secondly, because you are in that form, you can give others co-operation through your rays.

“BapDada saw that as you

have been listening to the *Murlis*, nowadays you are paying more *attention* to your timetable. Your *attention* has increased and the *tension* of your *sanskars* will continue to be reduced. BapDada also told

you earlier that whenever there is *tension* – simply add an “A” and there will be *attention*.

“What would you reply to someone who asks you: What have you received? There is nothing lacking in the hearts of

us Brahmins. We have attained that which we wanted. Now, use that, become an intense effort-maker and bring time close.

- B.K. Nirwair

BRAHMA KUMARIS GUJARAT ZONE CELEBRATES PLATINUM JUBILEE

On one side we see the devotees gathering at temples and other places of worship seeking God’s blessings through prayers. Intricate and elaborate traditional practices are the order of the day. Religious leaders have been trying their best to bring home the message of Shrimad Bhagwat Gita and other scriptures to the masses for their well-being and alleviation of sufferings. However, the opposite seems to be occurring; sorrow and diseases are spreading all over rampantly. At such a time the Brahma Kumaris, a socio-spiritual organization, has been spreading the message: ‘**One God, One World Family**’ through different kinds of educational activities, during their Platinum Jubilee Year 2011-12.

The Gujarat Chapter hosted one week of celebrations from 4-9 February 2012, at Venus

Ground, near Jhansi ki Rani statue, Ahmedabad. The main events were as follows:

Media & Writers’ Seminar, Spiritual Fair; Professionals’ Meet addressed by BK Sister Shivani; Platinum Jubilee celebrations; Women, Social Workers & Rural Wing Seminars; Education, Sports and Cultural events; Politicians & Youth Seminars, Sant Samagam and musical evenings etc. A grand exhibition with eleven huge-sized tableaus was the main attraction for thousands of enthusiastic peace-seekers to delve into the practical experience of Rajyoga Meditation.

The inauguration of the Platinum Jubilee celebrations under the theme, “One God – One World Family” was held on 5th February 2012 from 6 p.m. onwards. **Hon’ble Mr. Narendra Modi, Chief**

Minister of Gujarat, graced the occasion as Chief Guest while **Mr. Asit Vora, Mayor of Ahmedabad Municipal Corporation**, was the Guest of Honour. Revered Dadi Hirday Mohiniji, BK Sarla Didi, Brother Nirwair, Sister Shivani, Sister Chandrika and Sister Sharda addressed the audience numbering over 40,000 invitees. 75 lamps were lit by prominent citizens at the Inaugural Ceremony.

In his inaugural speech, the Chief Minister Mr. Modiji said, “*The world is one Family and we are children of One God. These magic words will uplift the world from all difficulties. The spirituality of Bharat is our source of life-power. By professing spiritual wisdom, Bharat can show the right path to the world.*”

“*The concept of ‘One God – One World Family’ brings home the basic belief of*

spiritual civilization. In our spiritual heritage, the concept of 'Vasudev Kutumbhkum' embodies this thought. God is One for the whole world.

"The Brahma Kumaris movement encourages us to honour Mother Power (Matri Shakti. By recognizing the supremacy of Woman Power, Brahma Kumaris have shown us the path to new knowledge."

Addl. Administrative Head of Brahma Kumaris, Rajyogini Dadi Hirday Mohini, showered her blessings and reminded everyone to become soul-conscious and connect with the Supreme Being to receive gifts of peace, love and power eternally.

The Mayor, Mr. Asit Vora, praised the work of the Brahma Kumaris in the field of bestowing peace.

BK Brother Nirwair, Secretary-General of Brahma Kumaris, delivered the Keynote address: *"While Gandhiji blessed the people of Bharat with political freedom, the Supreme Father God Shiva through Brahma Baba showed the path of spiritual wisdom to gain freedom from the oldest enemies (five vices) through*

the power of Godly knowledge and Rajyoga Meditation. In this way, the new beginnings took place 75 years ago and today the message has reached 137 countries through 8500 Godly service centres throughout the world".

Everyone felt very close to God the Supreme during the meditation led by Sister Shivani. BK Sarla Didi welcomed the guests, while Sister Sharda and Sister Chandrika also shared spiritual wisdom on the special occasion.

Throughout the inauguration, people took complete benefit in apt silence with moments of applause from time to time. At the end of the programme, a beautiful presentation in the form of a Dance Drama kept the audience glued to their seats; it was a wonderful exposition of the Time Cycle from Golden Age up to the end of Kaliyuga and Confluence Age.

Earlier in the morning session of 5th February, an illustrious get-together took place of over 3000 professionals who came specially to listen to BK Shivani on the topic,

"Spirituality – the Key to Success in Professional Life". Her interaction with the group carried on for over one hour and 25 minutes. This beautiful exchange helped everyone realize the importance of spirituality in day-to-day life at home as well as the workplace. At the end of her talk, she led the gathering into a very relaxing and soothing process of meditation with commentary.

Brother Nirwair chaired the session and emphasized that regular early morning meditation practice followed by brief spiritual study would surely help in leading a very happy and relaxed life, create a happy family atmosphere at home, especially for the positive personality growth of the children.

Our hearty congratulations to all BK sisters, brothers and well-wishers of Gujarat for making this great event a tremendous success! The print and electronic media deserve our hearty thanks for their whole-hearted cooperation in spreading the message of "One God – One World Family" and thereby receiving God's Blessings.

USE DEAD SILENCE TO LISTEN TO THE INNER

(Class by Dadi Janki ji, Chief of Brahma Kumaris)

Our 'inner voice' should be so beautiful that we should be able to hear it easily. Today God's versions instructed us to go into dead silence. It is only when we are in dead silence that we are able to properly listen to the inner voice within our heart, and in our mind. In ordinary silence, thoughts come and go; they intervene and our attention can be easily distracted. But in dead silence, we have the feeling that 'I, the soul, am separate from the body and beyond'. It is when we are in dead silence and listening to our inner voice in this way that our words and actions become wonderful.

It is when the soul is in dead silence that it is able to go beyond its accumulated existing *sanskars* and *karma*, and see its original *sanskars* clearly; it is able to return to the original nature of the self and of what it is now becoming again. I may have been making overall spiritual effort for a long period of time and that would have taken me so far, but when there is effort to experience dead

silence, I capture the awareness of myself in my original form; the form to which I am returning to.

We speak about the two living systems – mind and matter. When the mind is good, then matter automatically works well also. Just like when our hand will do whatever we want without our having to give it specific instructions, similarly external nature will do its work without our intervention. Nature provides beauty that is so pleasing to look upon. A good question to ask ourselves therefore is, 'Mind, are you doing as good work as nature?' Does my mind have such beautiful things that will please God whenever the Divine looks upon it?

Do not spend your entire time just being on the outside and looking at matter, that is, being caught up and engrossed in it. Rather, go inside and look at your mind. Then look out at matter from the place within. Our minds should not get absorbed in matter but rather our minds should work to serve

matter.

The expression used to describe when one's mind is in a state of deep spiritual pleasure and enjoyment, is '*Manmoji*'. Such a one knows how to look after one's mind so they are mentally free and happy. This is very different to someone who requires or uses external things, such as certain types of company, certain facilities, hobbies, people who understand them etc., to keep themselves happy. Such persons who are '*Manmoji*' pursue that which entertain them. In this way they keep their mind in pleasure. They are not creating pleasure in the way that God wants them to create. Such people don't consider what anyone else or God suggests. They do what they want regardless of the implications. Such a soul is often confused, and has no catching power; no ability to hear the 'inner voice'. When the mind is 'in pleasure' in an accurate way, as a result of being lost in God's love, and as a result of being completely detached, then the intellect is able to do elevated work. Ask yourself which category your mind falls into - *Manmoji* or *Manmoji*?

People are forever asking Dadi where she gets the energy from at her age. It is because her Father is the Remover of Sorrow and Bestower of

Happiness, and she naturally does the same work. God is pleased seeing that she is helping Him in His work. We become instruments in the same way as Shiv Baba inspired Brahma Baba. This is an aspect of great happiness and we are able to do so many tasks by keeping this awareness. The more we understand this, the more refined our intellect becomes. In fact, Shiv Baba is the One who does everything and gets us to do things. These days it has become common to compare, complain, criticize and compete with others. However, these are big mistakes. Such mistakes make us forget that it is God who is enabling us to do everything. I don't recognise that I am a soul and who my Father is.

The main attainment we receive from remembering God with our mind is that we reclaim our self-sovereignty. This is the time God, our Father, has come for us; in Satyuga neither we, nor the Father, will have to do anything. Until then He will continue to relate knowledge. Our intellect has to become so refined – it will prick us if it is even the slightest bit 'rough'. Sometimes thoughts can be 'rough' too, which affect our attitude accordingly. When the intellect becomes refined, the mind will work very well and the attitude will always be good.

Brahma Baba used to say 'Child, if your intellect isn't able to engage at any time, sit in front of the pictures.' We have beautiful pictures of the Trimurti, Tree, Powers etc. God has given such knowledge, which helps us to have yoga. It is the eight powers that enable the 12 core values to be imbibed; if we lack even one power, we will not be able to apply them even if we have the values.

Many have created the *sanskar* of noticing the *sanskars* of others. It is very important to see that each one has his/her own part. This way of looking at things positively makes our intellect refined. Ego makes me criticise the *sanskars* of others. With honesty and purity in our thoughts, by seeing how each child of God has his own speciality, and that we belong to each other, we can accomplish so much as a spiritual family. Nurture this strong feeling of belonging.

By being honest, we help God to help ourselves

God's task is to purify us to the extent that we portray His image in us. When we are honest with our every thought and make the best use of our time and breath, then we make His task easier. Then He knows what to cut and what to add to increase the beauty of His creation. **God is pleased with an honest heart.** He guarantees the honest child the right to His legacy.

Honesty also makes us selfless. When we are greedy for anything, whether gross, physical things or subtle things such as fame or a position, we cannot be truly honest. When we are honest, it is enough to know that as long as I am following God's advice, I will not need a single penny more, as my future is bright.

When we understand this, we wish not to take but to give to others. We find opportunities to give, as we understand that giving brings blessings from others and God. Hence, honesty helps me earn the very thing I sacrificed. This is the beauty of this virtue. When we are honest about our vices and weaknesses, it compels others and even God to give us what we are missing.

This is why the rose is always smiling. It doesn't try to hide its thorns nor say, 'come and pluck me, I smell nice'. The thorns are so honestly visible that people still want to pluck the rose for its fragrance, and at times even save it from its own thorns. God wants to care so much for an honest soul that He constantly shows him the way to remove the thorns and reach his destination of truth.

SHIVRATRI – THE FESTIVAL OF GOD’S DESCENT

– B.K.Surendran, Bangalore

We know that many prophets, believed to be the messengers of God, established their respective religions, in various parts of the world, on the basis of the introduction of God as being a self-luminous entity. Ibrahim said ‘Allah – God is noor – light’. Jesus Christ said ‘God is light’. Moses saw the burning bush and said ‘God is a lamp flame’. Shri Guru Nanak Dev ji said ‘*Ek onkar nirakar*’ – ‘God is Incorporeal’. But, these prophets never claimed or proclaimed that they had come to establish a religion nor they knew that they had come to establish a religion. It is also known to us that after the life time of these so-called prophets, after many years, those people who had come to like their sermons and utterances came together and called themselves as Muslims, Buddhists, Christians and so on. They started propagating the sermons of these prophets and thus such group of people started growing and spreading.

We know that Buddha was not a Buddhist, Christ was not a Christian and Ibrahim was not a Muslim. They sermonised to the people about God and certain values in life such as peace, love, non violence, sacrifice, service, compassion and universal brotherhood.

These great souls came to give solace and succour to the suffering humanity. Certainly they succeeded in their efforts to some extent. They advised people to remember God and pray to God to get rid of their sufferings. These prophets served humanity according to their capacity and then left their mortal coil.



The critical moment in the history of the world

All the religious scriptures of the world have generally pointed out that the duration of the current cycle of time has already ended almost by the close of the 20th century. The Mayan calendar has also indicated that the present cycle of time is almost at the fag-end. There are bad omens, widespread unethical and immoral acts and activities prompted by the five vices. Violence and negative tendencies are common. It is not only that people in general call the present time as the end of Iron-Age but the life itself has become hell. The world is in turmoil. Widespread destruction of life is taking place in one way or the other, here and there. This is the time that everyone calls upon God to descend for the annihilation of the evils and upholding of the virtues. There is virtually darkness everywhere of science and this is the ‘dark’-‘Ratri’ time. God has the closest connection with the human souls and also the affairs of the world. He has a major role in the administration of world affairs more than anyone else. That is why, God is remembered by the vast majority of people for their own welfare and also for the welfare of others.

In fact, it is God alone who is popularly and generally believed to do something remarkable for ameliorating the miseries of the masses. God is the only one entity Who is being searched, re-searched and remembered by a vast number of people in the world. One thing is very clear that God had descended and practically enacted a series of acts in the last Time Cycle, 5000 years ago, which had left an indelible impact on the human souls. God's versions and sermons had then put tremendous positive impact which transformed the souls and other creatures of the world including the five elements of nature. In order to commemorate those events, people remember God especially during Shiva Ratri – Shiva Jayanti Day in the form of prayer, fasting, worship and so on.

Though God is worshipped in different forms and names, no one exactly knows who He is and what His attributes and divine acts are. Anyone who has taken birth through parents has a physical form and has his/her descendants. God Shiva is also said to have taken birth in the world. But, no one knows who His parents and His family members were. Since God is not a human being, the question of His birth through

human parents does not arise. God is a Special Incorporeal person who descends in the body of an ordinary old person. His descent is popularly known as Shiva Ratri. God's very name indicates that He comes on His own, taking a super-mundane birth. He is called 'Swayambhu' – the one who takes birth on His own. He is also known as 'Khuda'—the one who comes on His own

God descends – Shivratri starts

God, the Supreme, descends in the body of an ordinary old man whom He re-names Prajapita Brahma and starts revealing through his mouth organ that He is formless and does not have a gross, subtle or angelic form like Brahma, Vishnu or Shankar. He reveals that He is incorporeal-bodiless – a self effulgent light. He reveals to the humanity that He has to come down to the level of human beings to convey the secrets of creation and also to reveal His own personality. He makes a series of revelations which are not known to human beings. He clarifies that Brahma, Vishnu and Shankara are His creation through whom He creates, sustains and transforms this world. Shankara is being mistaken to be Shiva. But, Shankara

himself is seen in meditative posture; even he meditates on God Shiva.

God has an attributive name 'Shiva' which means benefactor or the one who does good. The self-luminous form of God is worshipped in the form of an oval-shaped stone, popularly known as 'Jyotirlinga' or 'Shiva linga'. This form of the Supreme is recognised not only by the followers of the ancient Sanatan Dharma in India, but also, in some form or the other, by a vast majority of people professing different faiths. In Mecca Sharif, there is a stone symbol named 'Sang-E-Aswad' to which all Muslim pilgrims pay homage by kissing it from a distance. The Jews and Christians also believe that, as mentioned in the Bible, God had revealed Himself to Moses in the form of a lamp flame. Today, an earthen lamp is lighted in all temples and candles lit in all churches to symbolise this flame-like image of God.

God the Supreme is Incorporeal, Self Effulgent Light, like the souls. He is a subtle point of light, which, when perceived through divine vision, presents an enlarged, radiant image of an egg. It is in commemoration of this phenomenon that stone images have been installed in temples

in so many far-flung places all over India. Some practitioners of Patanjali yoga look at a candle flame and practise yoga. In all Hindu temples, lamp of light is given lot of importance and people stand in queues to have the vision of the worship of the lamp.

Now, the *Malik* – the owner of the world has descended to recreate this world in His own image – creating heaven on earth. **He has been active on earth for the last 75 years and the process of ‘Renewal’ is in progress. He is advising all the souls to remember Him to absolve themselves of their sins in order to go back to the Incorporeal world. A miracle is happening in the world. By the mere remembrance of God, one is able to get rid of the vices and empower the self. He is authoritatively claiming and proclaiming to the world that He has descended to take back all the souls to the Soul World – Paramdham or Brahmlok and to renew the world into a world of heaven.**

When we understand the significance of Shiva Ratri, we will not be simply celebrating it for a day as a ritual, but, as long as God is on earth, Shiva Ratri will be celebrated by all of us along with the Lord who is always with us. We must understand that the time of prophets, savants and saviours is over and the time of God’s direct activities has begun in the world to renew the world. At present, God Shiva stands to the human soul in the three fundamental relationships of Supreme Father, Teacher and Preceptor – all in one. Through the corporeal medium – Prajapita Brahma, He imparts knowledge about Himself and acts as Guide, Teacher and Preceptor. **This present time is the true ‘SHIVA RATRI’ time. We are, on the one hand, observing fast ‘staying near to God’ means staying in the remembrance of God, and on the other hand, practising ‘Jagran’ – alertness – being in wakeful state so that the vices do not enter our mind to disconnect our mental connection with the Supreme. In the process we are practically moving towards the light and the darkness is disappearing on its own. This world is poised for a tremendous transformation from Iron-Age to Golden-Age in the very near future.**

HONESTY

Who is the most honest person? An honest person is like a rose — he is surrounded by thorns, yet he always smiles. Because his heart is clean, the smile is a reflection of his stable state of mind. Thorns don’t prick him. Honesty is of two kinds: one is honesty with the self, which makes me stay with the thorns, and the other is honesty with God, which makes me smile.

Honesty is like a glass of clean water. It quenches your thirst and you are assured of the water’s purity. **Honesty is what draws God’s help.** Why do we need to be honest? Honesty can help soften the most bitter of hearts. When we are honest in our efforts and intentions, we attract everyone’s love. An honest person is the one who sits on the heart-throne of God.

Honesty means being fully accountable for every thought. Honesty means never to stop in the middle of the journey but to accept the need for signals and halts. If we are not honest with ourselves, we will lose our self worth. **Honesty is like a jewel worn on the crown of the self. It increases our worth in our eyes.** To walk on the path of truth, honesty is extremely essential, for it makes way for you to follow what you believe in.

Honesty with God is of a different kind. God seeks our honesty as insurance for ourselves. When God knows that a child is honest, He is ever-ready to help. God doesn’t know what’s in everyone’s heart but He knows an honest heart. And when one is honest with Him, He helps to clean the heart. So honesty with God draws His love and care.



DIVINE BIRTH OF THE BIRTH-LESS



— P. Shyam Sunder, Miyapur, Hyderabad

Shivratri is one of the prominent festivals of Hindus. It is celebrated in India, Nepal and several other countries. As per traditional beliefs, this festival is celebrated as birthday of God Shiva. Chanting of *bhajans*, *mantras* and *shlokas*, as well as other spiritual practices mark this holy day. A special feature of this pious festival is that most of the devotees observe fast and *jagran* – remaining awake throughout the night. The idols are bathed in milk and rose water; flowers, fruit etc., are offered in the temples.

According to traditional beliefs, Shiva and Shankar are considered to be names of the same deity. According to the knowledge imparted by God Shiva through the corporeal medium of Prajapita Brahma, they are not the same, but are altogether different. God Shiva is the Creator of this entire universe. He generates the new, pure world through Brahma, operates it through Vishnu and gets it transformed through Shankar when irreligiousness is rampant, vices and calamities

afflict most of the humanity and that is the time of transition. Traditionally it is believed that when Shankar opens his third eye, the entire world gets destroyed.

As revealed by Incorporeal God Shiva, Shanker is one of the three deities who are instruments of the Almighty Lord for proper functioning of the world. In the pictures, Shanker is shown as worshipping and meditating on Incorporeal God Shiva, in the form of Shivaling, which is a memorial of God Shiva's original form—a point of divine light. Shiva is called the Supreme Father, as there is no one above Him and He is the Father of all souls who play their respective roles in this eternal World Drama. Souls thus come in the cycle of life and death, but not the Supreme Soul. As God Shiva is immune to birth and death and He has no body of his own, He has to take the support of someone's body to reveal the spiritual knowledge and impart practical wisdom for transforming the world. That

fortunate soul is Prajapita Brahma who becomes instrumental in rejuvenation of this universe.

It is interesting to note that this festival is called Shivratri, not Shankar Ratri, as Shankar is not God. When God Shiva revealed that He is not omnipresent and His original abode is Soul World or *Brahmlok*, it gave a novel insight into meditation and God's remembrance. Spiritual aspirants can now meditate on God Shiva and the spiritual practice can be intensified through purity and peace.

Shiva is known by many other names as Trilokinath, Jagannath, Amarnath, Swayambhu etc. He is called Trilokinath, being the master of the three worlds – Corporeal, Subtle (Brahma, Vishnu, and Shankar Puris), and Brahmlok. He is known as Jagannath as He is the master of the entire universe. He is Amarnath because He is above birth and death as He has no physical body of His own. He is Swayambhu, as He is not created by any one and is above all.

Now we are at the last leg of Kaliyuga (Iron Age), when God has descended in human form on this earth. He is educating all the souls as to how to free themselves from five

main negativities or vices – Lust, Anger, Greed, Ego and Attachment. After purifying all souls, He takes them along, to the Soul World. The pure souls then descend again to play their respective roles in the New Age called *Satyug*. This pure world is sustained through Shri Laxmi and Shri Narain, the first Empress and Emperor of the pure world.

Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya celebrates Shiv Ratri on a very large scale, every year. Flags of God Shiva are hoisted and true introduction of God Shiva is given through public functions. Pictorial exhibitions are held and pamphlets are distributed to educate people about the true significance of this festival. Peace marches are also organised to create vibrations of spirituality. The main aim of the Brahma Kumaris and Brahma Kumars is that every human being on this earth should get the message of Incorporeal God Shiva and they should experience purity, peace, love, unity and harmony in their practical lives.

God Father has been calling us to purify the self and attain the sovereignty of the forthcoming Golden Age. During the last decade, we have already seen the destruction and devastation by natural calamities—floods, famine etc. which have ruined millions of lives. It is the most opportune time for serving mankind through our vibrations of compassion and cooperation. God Shiva, whom we lovingly call Shiv Baba, is the greatest teacher and guide and He is here to liberate and purify all of us. Let us all celebrate this pious festival in the true sense, spreading strong vibrations of purity, peace and positivity.

DEEP DIVE

In the ocean of life, I take a deep plunge
The soothing silence surrounds
The ripples crash around me
I wish to touch the nadir
For therein lies the true beauty
The sheer innocence of my being
A diffused aura of colours,
I discover

Many lives within one life we live
Many an act within one drama we enact

Yet,
I remain one,
I remain eternal
I fail, I falter, I shed tears,
I carry a song on my lips
But,
When, I am me, whole and soul,
I am at peace
I am light
I am below and yet above all
Untouched by fallacies of wealth and
prudence
Of fame and honour
I dream
I believe
I strive
When I discover, the true I !!

NEWNESS

—B. K. Rajsekhar, Dubai

Nature is always new and fresh, every moment of its existence. It is changing every moment. If, at all anything is constant in nature, it is change. The flowing water in the river is not the same, it is new every moment. Fundamentally, change denotes the transition to something new. For example, water in the liquid state is not the same as water in the frozen state. At some point, it experienced a transition and became different. Thus, it changed. Water in the liquid state is not the same as water in the gaseous state. At some point, it changes from liquid to gas or steam. Change is the law of nature and change is inevitable.

There is physical change and mental change. We have to understand this changing nature of nature and mind and make use of both nature and mind for the common good of the people of the world. If we want change, newness needs to be

brought into our life. Attitudes to change may fall into one of the following two categories: 1. Change is random; and 2. Change is cyclical, and one expects circumstances to recur. The latter concept is often seen as related to Eastern religious traditions such as Hinduism and Buddhism.

Change may require organisms to adapt. Change also may require organizations to adapt. Changes in society may take place either slowly, through gradual modifications in mindsets and beliefs, or suddenly, through revolutions. Societies continuously acquire predictive knowledge to avoid the impact of catastrophic changes. Research is one of the tools for anticipating impending changes and adapting to the inevitable, new conditions. Changes can be made in constitutions and laws to bring about change gradually. Societies that do not follow this path have changes thrust upon them by forces beyond their

control.

Newness has to be adopted by all to bring about change in society. Even one person or a group of people who adopt newness can be instrumental in bringing newness and hence change in society for better living conditions.

‘I am a non-physical soul and not physical body. I am immortal and my body is mortal. Nature is eternal. Souls are eternal. God is eternal. I am a child of God. I am eternally peaceful, loving and blissful. I own nothing, hence I can’t lose anything. God owns everything. I am with God. I establish all relationships with Him. I love God and obey Him.’

The above ‘thinking’ will bring newness in our consciousness. Newness in the consciousness will bring newness in our attitude, vision and action.

At this point of time, our world needs newness in thinking. Rajyoga enables all to bring newness in their thinking and fully equips them to face change which will ultimately result in the common good of the world community.

Character is like a tree and reputation like its shadow. The shadow is what we think of it; the tree is the real thing. — Abraham Lincoln

JOURNEY OF THE SOUL THROUGH TIME



– BK Vijay Bhaskar, Bhubaneswar

The world we live in is a stage where souls descend as actors to play their roles in a vast drama. The souls put on different bodies (costumes) according to their parts. The duration of this universal-scale drama is 5,000 years, a period known in Hindi as a *kalpa*.

There are four epochs in a *kalpa* – *Satyug* (Golden Age), *Tretayug* (Silver Age), *Dwaparyug* (Copper Age) and *Kaliyug* (Iron Age), each of 1,250 years. The last part of *Kaliyug* is known as the Confluence Age or *Sangamyug*, when the Iron Age ends and the Golden Age is about to dawn. The first half of this drama, comprising *Satyug* and *Tretayug*, is called *Rama-Rajya*, heaven or the deity world. The second half (*Dwaparyug* and *Kaliyug*) is called *Ravan-Rajya*, hell, or the demonic world. *Rama Rajya* is also known as the Day of Brahma, and *Ravan Rajya* as the Night of Brahma.

A human soul takes a maximum of 84 births in this drama, in male as well as female bodies, depending on the role it has to play. The number of births a soul takes in human form can be said to make up the volumes of the book of a soul's life story during a *kalpa*. The years the soul spends in each birth are the chapters of this book, the months the pages and the hours the sentences narrating the ups and downs, successes and failures, health and happiness and sorrows of its life.

Near the end of this drama, when human souls start enacting extremely vicious roles, the Almighty Authority, Supreme Soul Shiva, descends in the body of a man through whom He re-establishes the deity-world or heaven on Earth by imparting divine wisdom to mankind.

Through this person, who comes to be known as Prajapita Brahma, God established the Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya in

the year 1936. At this Godly university, the Supreme Teacher, Shiva, gives true knowledge to mankind about the self (soul), God, the relationship between the two, about the three worlds (the incorporeal world, subtle world and corporeal world), the cycle of time, the gradual degradation of human souls from divinity in *Satyug*, to viciousness in *Kaliyug*, and about the transformation of souls again to their original divine status in the Confluence Age.

Explaining the value of time in the Confluence Age, God says it is the only period when souls learn directly from Him. He gives spiritual knowledge only once in a *kalpa*. If this opportunity is lost by human souls, it is lost forever. God Shiva says that by following His teachings sincerely, one can acquire all divine qualities and become worthy of taking birth in heaven or the Golden Age.

To become a deity from a human, one must practise purity in thought, speech and action during the Confluence Age. As the thoughts, so will be the speech and actions. By making this effort, one can leave one's mark in human history, written on the pages of time, for others to get the inspiration and zeal to strive to become a deity in *Satyug*.

This is my simple religion. There is no need for temples; no need for complicated philosophy. Our own brain, our own heart is our temple; the philosophy is kindness. – Dalai Lama

MISSIONS FOR VISIONS OF TRANSFORMATION

– B.K.Sanathi, Ampang, Malaysia.

“We must be the change we wish to see in this world.”

– Mahatma Gandhi

Bringing newness in our attitudes and our ways of life for betterment is transformation. Many wish to transform their thoughts, way of speech and action. However, these achievements could only be made when there is accuracy in the vision of their own destination, meaning as to why there needs be a transformation and the consequences of such transformation. When there is such a vision, the mission which may be hindered by various obstacles in one's path for transformation would be easily overcome. The study of Raja Yoga is one that guarantees transformation in one's thoughts, words and actions for betterment, with its teachings having passed down by God Himself. As one's behaviour and attitude are judged by his vices or virtues, the main step that leads to one's betterment is the transformation of all the vices to virtues in oneself.

Transformation needs one's realization of true identity

Firstly, one's true self-identification has to be realized in order to regain his true self. It is due to the reason that every human being in this world is in fact an imperishable soul existing in the physical frame called the body. It is also true that one is a sentient being of truth and bliss because when asked for a wish today, peace, bliss and happiness will be on the top on one's list. Truth, bliss, love, peace, joy, happiness and all other positive attributes which once belonged to every human kind have now been lost due to the manifestation of our vices in us. Hence, when once it enters one's intellect that he is a being of such positive energies, one who is tuned to these positive attributes, immediately acknowledges his true identity and is convinced that he has to start on his mission on the path to the

attainment of the destination of his true self.

Transformation needs one's constant pilgrimage of remembrance

As the study of Raja Yoga for transformation of oneself has been revealed by our One Heavenly Father, the Supreme Soul, the first mission for one to set on is to remember constantly the Supreme Soul with accuracy through his or her intellect. It is by remembering Him that gives us the true experience of peace, bliss, joy and happiness in ourselves during the remembrance because it is with the Ocean of such energies that we, the sentient beings of these positive energies, are linking ourselves with. The accurate link between the Supreme Power and us, the souls who are His children destroys our vices and divinizes our intellect day by day. Such a divinization is said to occur as the link is between us—the sinful ones and the True Divine One, the Purifier who is the Supreme Soul. As the only Purifier with the power to purify, He with His rays of powers could absolve our sins when we make accurate link with Him through our true love and remembrance. Hence, when vices vanish, our true virtues manifest our existence.

**Transformation needs
one to be honest**

Honesty and dishonesty of oneself is oblivion to others as one would think, nevertheless, it is obvious through one's body language. Dishonesty means inequality in one's thoughts to his words and actions. As purity in thoughts is the main essence for one's development and growth spiritually, dishonesty, which causes the impurity of the mind with viciousness, impure and negative thoughts, becomes a stumbling block for any absorption of purity and dissolution of impurity. This makes one's thoughts, words and actions especially, limited in being generous or a donor. Therefore, transformation in such people becomes nil.

Being generous or a donor, does not only mean giving out physically in the form of money or assistance to help, but more importantly it is the virtues in the form of humility and simplicity in thoughts through one's broad intellect, that make one's words and actions carried out with a big and generous heart; he thus becomes a sample for others to see and follow. Words of those with honesty come filled with essence and have charisma while their actions always bring victory. Thus, it reveals the true characteristic and identity of one. Such revelations are

responsible for bringing unstinting praise to one's humble being from others without any requests made. The hero in this Yagya was, and still is Prajapita Brahma, the father of humanity who was generous in spreading his virtues and unlimited love through his humility as well as simplicity.

**Transformation needs
one to be merciful**

"Have mercy on yourself" is what the Supreme Father tells us. This simply means one has to realize his or her own vices and have yoga with the Father while applying His shrimat at every footstep in order to become virtuous. It is only when one has mercy on him or herself, one could be able to realize the circumstances or situations of others and without any expectations, accept them for what they are. This is because when one becomes virtuous by having mercy on oneself as mentioned above; it means he or she becomes inculcated with the power of love, power of tolerance, power to face and the power to cooperate etc, that make him or her to accommodate others and thus, have mercy on them. One must understand that each and every human being in this world is originally virtuous but he or she has become vicious due to the many circumstances as

predestined in the World Drama. If it is not for their original qualities of virtues in them, no one in this world would be able to recognize what peace or love is which everyone is searching for today. One would only search for what he or she has lost which once belonged to him or her. This is why God says, *"You have been stumbling around for birth after birth"*. By mentioning *"stumbling"*, He means that it was in our search for peace and love, with inappropriate teachings and guidance that we had become selfish, greedy, jealous, angry etc., which had led us to the wrong or vicious actions causing chaos and disharmony in this world.

Therefore, although the world today has come to an extreme degraded level where human beings are losing even the little values in them, let us not look at anyone's weaknesses and mistakes. Instead, let us be role models and take their hands in ours with love and mercy because they too are in thirst of every virtue but still *"stumbling around"*. As God, our Heavenly Father, says that all human beings in this world are His children, let our transformation lead them to their right path so that none of them miss out their right to His inheritance.

YOU HAVE TWO GOD-GIVEN LEGS - AND THAT'S ENOUGH TO CONQUER THE WORLD, AND YOURSELF

(What Will You Think Of Today? Yourself, The Starving People, Or What You Will Eat Later? Don't Let The Rocket Of Unhappiness Land On Your Planet. Which Medal Are You Worthy Of?)

– B.K. David, Paignton, England

Anyone, who has done something remarkable in life, has only two legs. Not only two legs, two feet, two eyes and two arms, just like you do. Or may be you think great people, who achieve and create something with their lives, have 100 secret legs, eyes and hands stashed away in a secret place which give them an added advantage?

God Does Not Make You Pick Up A Paint Brush

We are all the same, the different beings, our minds and attitudes, abilities and skills. God gave you the basics (body); He has left it up to you to create the skill to do whatever you want with your body and life, be that an artist, surgeon, musician, doctor, dentist or an accountant. God has given you everything you need to get along in life, except the notion, desire, hunger and motivation which has to come from you and burn inside so you cannot sit down until it's complete.

Just Two Legs - And See What They Did

The paint brushes are the

same and so are everyone's hands, but not the imagination and what the artist sees and thinks which is unique. You are unique and your life should reflect your uniqueness, taking the examples of Gandhi, Jesus, Mother Teresa, The Beatles, or JFK. They were unique and led unique lives; did they not?

Your God-given Talent Is Really Your Own

These great souls all tried to give to the world in one way or another, be it of beauty, righteousness or to enrich everyone's lives. They were unique and created unique ideas and led unique lives. They all gave and did not have to take. Do you not think we should do the same? After all, we know God and have even met Him. So how unique a life should you be leading? You should be pulling the stars from the sky above with your God-given arms. You should be walking to heaven with your God-given legs. You should be creating a heaven wherever you go with your God-given hands. You should be transforming hell into

an enjoyable and unique place for all to be with your unique attitude, love and God-given understanding. One would have thought you could change this old boot of a world with leaking holes and crippling stones inside, into a comfortable slipper if you really wanted.

It's not everyone who has God, sitting on their shoulders, guiding their hands and feet. Yet some seem only to be able to change their clothes; such is their love, capacity and understanding. Blessed is the one who can change the atmosphere where he sits and most importantly, where he walks. Anyone can change his or her car but rare are the few who can change the world. What will you change today; your hair style or the world? Do you only walk for self gain? Can you walk today with the aim of truly changing the world? Can you forget yourself for one day? Can you really stop thinking of yourself and think of the world and its suffering?

Will you make 100% effort today for others less fortunate?

Or is your effort based around only self-gain and what makes you feel good? Will you put yourself out today in the pursuit of trying to help others? Most people in life are only concerned with looking good and eating tasty food. God thinks of the starving and how to help them.

What do you think of throughout the day? Clothes, hair, food, talking, what are you going to eat later or the starving people in the world? What will you think today? Will you think of the suffering souls or what's for pudding? Will you sit down and think how to help the world or sit down with tea and biscuits for a chat with a friend? Who do you think of - yourself or the unfortunate? Some think only of their friends and family. God thinks and helps everyone all of the time. Everyday God helps everyone whilst some only ever think of themselves. Some would never even think of causing themselves any discomfort in trying to help anyone else.

Walking For God - Means He'll Work For You

Should you decide to use your legs for God's work, they'll grow strong and tough; use your arms to do God's work, you'll grow six more invisible arms; use your hands to point the way to God

and you will be able to read your elevated fortune from your palms; use your eyes to see to others' welfare, and you'll get a 3rd eye and be able to see in the dark; use your voice to talk of God's brilliance, wonder and knowledge, and you shall soon breathe in heaven; use your ears to hear His knowledge, and you'll hear secrets from history that many have searched all their lives to hear, yet you and only a few souls on earth are hearing now. Use that body of yours for God and become a super human being who knows all, hears all, touches all, sees all and with the strength of 100's.

Bill, Phil & Jill

I have three friends. Bill never takes a pill, whilst Phil could control his will. Jill was always cool and very good at keeping her mind very still and calm. If only everyone were like these three friends who believed in nature's power to heal, who had great self discipline, and who can maintain inner strength, peace and stability in the face of our crazy world of rush, rush and push, push. Is your life more like a war zone or an orchard of fruit? Are you a walking rifle or a fruit tree? One will become a cripple and other a giant.

TV (Mind) Remote Control

Is your mind a TV remote control but often choosing the wrong channel (sorrow)? Do you switch on the TV (wake up) wanting to watch a comedy but get the usual daily soap full of misery? May be you end up switching channel and have to watch a tragedy? Perhaps you watch an epic film all day which of course, has an unhappy ending to it? Most waste the day, and every day (their lives), trying to find something satisfying and interesting (happiness) to watch but end up just getting bored and fed up as usual and going to bed disappointed.

Don't Let The Rocket Of Unhappiness Land On Your Planet (Life)

Make sorrow very hard to stay with you and as remote and as far away as what a tree or tear-drop is from the sun or coal from the moon. Your sorrow should stay with you as easy as what it is for a tear-drop to sit next to the sun.

Today, if you wish to end the day with a smile on your face, you must learn to be a fruit tree in the middle of the desert. To be successful in life, one must give, give, and give even more, otherwise you'll just get by in life unnoticed.

Could a rocket ever land on

a planet of jelly? We must learn to mould ourselves to each and every situation in life or else the mould of sorrow will find a way of settling on you. We must change our attitudes and learn to mould. If you do not change and only stand still in life, mould will attack you for sure. People either carry happiness round with them - or sorrow. Check your pockets (mind).

Wake Up and Throw Away Your Old Batteries (Attitude)

Wake up and make sure you only go shopping for happiness. Throw away your old batteries in your remote control and put positive, energised batteries (attitude) in and you'll automatically tune into channels that make you laugh.

God gives us an armchair of wisdom to view life. Humanity sits in an old deckchair and has chronic backache to the extent it cannot even stand up and see what is going on in the world. People live, eat, talk and sit in pain and ignorance.

Now, what's on TV today worth watching? It really is up to you what you watch (how you live) on TV. Personally, I like to have fun when I watch TV.

Many Are Happy To Walk Backwards Through Life Whilst Others Are Busy Sweating And Moving Forwards

You should always be eager to make yourself 'kitchen ready'. This means you are ready to get hot, sweaty, uncomfortable and busy in the pursuit of helping others. Not to sweat, help others or have some discomfort, is to be always seeing in reverse and walking backwards in life. In this mode can they ever move forward?

If you can't put yourself out with some discomfort in the name of truth, you best serve the world by taking up line dancing or cricket - or rowing, where you travel backwards. Some are so good at rowing and do not know it; they could even win a gold medal. It is far better to win the 'Bronze Medal of Effort' than the 'Gold Medal of Ignorance'.

A Story

TEMPER CONTROL

Once, there was a little boy who had a bad temper. His father gave him a bag of nails and told him that every time he lost his temper, he must hammer a nail into the fence.

The first day, the boy had driven 37 nails into the fence. Over the next few weeks, as he learnt to control his anger, the number of nails hammered daily gradually dwindled down.

He discovered it was easier to hold his temper than to drive those nails into the fence. Finally, the day came when the boy didn't lose his temper at all. He told his father about it and the father suggested that the boy now pulled out one nail for each day that he was able to hold his temper.

The days passed by and the young boy was finally able to tell his father that all the nails were gone. The father took his son by the hand and led him to the fence. He said "you have done well, my son, but look at the holes in the fence. The fence will never be the same. When you say things in anger, they leave a scar just like this one. You can put a knife in a man and draw it out. It won't matter how many times you say I'm sorry, the wound is still there."

Moral of the Story

Make sure you control your temper the next time you are tempted to say something you will regret later.

SELF-MASTERY THROUGH CONTROLLING AND RULING POWER



– B.K. Khem Jokhoo, Trinidad

Self-Mastery is to become “**master of the self**” and it is to have complete control of your thoughts, words and actions and not be influenced by the five senses, five vices, matter as well as the body and bodily relations. To attain this spiritual stage, the soul must have controlling and ruling powers over its three subtle powers of the mind, intellect and memory. When the mind, intellect and memory obey the orders of the soul and they are not influenced by the senses, vices, matter or bodily relations, the soul attains the status of “**master of the self**” and “**self-sovereign**”. When there is controlling power over the self, then ruling power emerges where control over others becomes natural and the soul attains “**world sovereignty**”.

Controlling power to take both responsibility and cooperation from others to ensure success whereas to “take control” is where cooperation is not guaranteed and one **has to then labour for success**.

Renunciation is a major

prerequisite to acquire controlling and ruling power in order to become “master of the self”.

The First Renunciation

The first step is for the mind and intellect to become master over the senses. The very first connection of the soul with the outside world is the mind using the physical senses of sight, sound, smell, touch and taste to perform actions. The senses are there to serve and obey the wishes of the soul and should in no way influence the mind and intellect to do otherwise. Just as the household paraphernalia satisfies the needs of the householders, in the same way the sense organs serve the needs of the soul and body. If you are attracted by any of the physical senses, then that influence will repeatedly bring you down and deny you from claiming self-sovereignty.

The Second Renunciation

The second step is the renunciation of body-consciousness and conquering of vices of anger, greed, ego, lust and attachment. This

means to have the awareness of being soul-conscious and the consciousness of being angelic in nature. Lust is your worst enemy followed by anger. The vices reduce the reasoning powers of the soul by making the intellect comatose. It is similar to being consumed by evil spirits where the conscience goes dead making the soul vulnerable to criminal activities. The medical fraternity calls this stage the “split personality”, the legal luminaries refer to it as “temporary insanity” whereas it is called “spiritual suicide” in spirituality.

The method to conquer the vices is through **volcanic yoga** by making intense effort. This requires becoming the embodiment of “zeal and enthusiasm” where one creates a powerful spiritual atmosphere with an elevated spiritual attitude to conquer Maya as well as Matter.

This is called the angelic stage and being a karma yogi. Angels do not have a physical body and hence they never set foot on the ground. Similarly, the foot of the intellect of the soul

should always be in an elevated stage of an angel while you eat, meet and greet. When you use the body without having vanity, the vices will not attract you in any way. You must become the conqueror of anger, greed, ego, lust and attachment. This is the second step of renunciation.

The Third Renunciation

The third renunciation is the subtle and physical relations of the body such as dislike, attachment and dependency of anyone.

▶ **Firstly**, if you **dislike** someone, then the defects or actions of that person will repeatedly daunt, haunt and taunt your intellect. Even against your conscious wish, you will automatically have wrong ideas about that person in your thoughts, words, and dreams even if that person is right. Even in meditation or remembrance of God, that person will repeatedly appear in the screen of your mind breaking your concentration. **The seed of dislike is a royal form of a selfish motive.** The desire of your dislike, hate or jealousy forges a wasteful relationship with that soul. Because of constantly having wasteful thoughts for a person you dislike, you spin the discus of sorrow and

spread disharmony and discontent in the atmosphere. Relationship with that person would be out of duty or force and not love. Your time will be wasted, your intellect will be wasted and your powers will be wasted because of your dislikes. Until those selfish motives are fulfilled, the karmic account of opposing that soul in your thoughts and actions will continue. This is self-induced obstacles in ones spiritual progress and yet we blame others.

▶ **Secondly, attachment and dependency create a deep karmic bondage.** When you take some temporary support or you make someone the basis of your attainment, then, because your intellect is dependent on that soul, instead of you becoming free, the bondage of karma is created. Even if one gives freely and the other one took innocently, a subtle indebtedness is created and the intellect gets distracted. At that time, you feel as though you are making progress, but that progress is not really progress, but an accumulation in your account of karmic bondage.

A soul bound by bondage of karma will not be able to

experience any relationship with God. A soul who has the burden of karmic bondage will not be able to experience being completely stable in the stage of the pilgrimage of remembrance. Such souls will always be weak in the subject of remembrance. They may be clever and sensible in listening to knowledge and relating it, but they wouldn't be essence-full. They will be serviceable, but will not be a destroyer of obstacles. They will make service grow, but that growth won't be through the right method. Such souls become speakers, but, because of their burden of karmic bondage, they're unable to progress with speed, that is, they're unable to experience the speed of the flying stage. Both of these types of relationships of the body don't allow you to become a renunciate. If your intellect is dependent on someone, it proves that there is a burden. A burden creates worries and induces fear leading to sorrow.

▶ Thirdly, the language of Brahmins sometimes becomes very royal. **When the truth is cleverly hidden in language, this takes the form of the royal trace of vices. The gross form of vices has finished but a**

trace of the royal form still remains... That expansion is now very long. "I am correct! or "I am right!" There are many such words of royal language that you use to justify yourself. There are also many royal words for hiding your own weakness and creating an expansion of revealing and clearly showing the weaknesses of others. That is not the reality, but in order to prove yourself right, or in order to justify your weaknesses, the words of your own dictates are used. A complete renunciate never has such language in which there is the slightest trace of any of the vices. To be constantly beyond the slightest trace of vice in your thought, word and deed is known as being a complete renunciate.

► Finally, pure food prepared in remembrance of God is required to be a total renunciate. Impure food affects the harmonious relationship of the mind and intellect. Pure food or Brahma Bhojan must be prepared, cooked and eaten in silence to get the true power of the food. Food

and mood affect the purity of the soul.

The Fourth Renunciation

The fourth renunciation is to renounce everything wasteful and become powerful. Wastage of your time and thoughts is your greatest enemy. Renounce performing sinful actions because it brings sorrow to the self, others or the environment. Do not do the very things that you ask others not to do. Give up waste, idle and ordinary thoughts and actions. Renounce the subtle and royal form of the vices. It is not right to believe that if you don't perform sinful actions that you have not made mistakes. Renounce the carelessness of words, ordinary language, gossip, or ordinary conversation. Do not waste your time in ordinary things. **Always remember that time and pure thoughts are your greatest fortune.**

Signs of a Complete Renunciate

A complete renunciate has three specialties. (1) Although corporeal, to be constantly incorporeal in thoughts and to the souls who are constantly detached and loving to the Father. (2) To become constantly egoless in words and have spiritual sweetness and humility. (3) To be viceless in

action in all the physical senses, that is, to have the *personality of purity*.

A complete renunciate is a World Benefactor who serves simultaneously through mind, words and actions to all souls, the elements and nature constantly. It is to be a constant donor and a Bestower at the same time in an unlimited capacity.

THE SOUL

**– Paramjeet S. Bhatia,
Mangan, Sikkim**

The Earth is round
But the core is within
The body is around
But the soul is within.

Keep giving like the Sun
That does not differentiate,
And be like the water
That flows and cooperates.

Be flexible like the air
That makes you live
Always be in gratitude
For all that God gives.

Listen to your heart
And ignore the mind
Seek the silence within
And soul you will find.

SUPERSENSUOUS JOY



– BK T.N.K. Varma, Kochi

Super sensuous joy is a word that has always fascinated me and I believe that is the case with numerous BKs. The fact that it cannot be taught like other spiritual subjects makes it more intriguing, and in my case the quest went on for a long time during which I compared notes with those who were more or less enjoying a state which could be close to super sensuous joy. Even God Shiva i.e. Shiv Baba has left it to *Gopes* and *Gopis* to explain.

The quest is continuing, but with a difference. Last month, I had a taste of an elevated state of meditation that I had not experienced till then, and I have reason to believe that I had a close encounter with what I was searching for. A state of weightlessness accompanied by an out-of-body experience bordering on ecstasy was felt during evening meditation. It always started with churning of a particular point from *sakar* or *avyakt murlis* and the experience lasted about ten to fifteen minutes. It was repeated on five days and the thought process on different days took

the path given below.

DAY - ONE

Why not aim for the top? This is my life and no-one can add or take away anything that belongs to me.... Aim for the sun and even if I fall, I will fall among the stars.... There is no midway to achieving excellence.... Why wallow in the mediocrity of the majority when I have my path cut out and my goal spelt out.... Baba wants nothing less from His children.... Everyone is No. 1 in His eyes.... I was a *Suryavanshi* and nothing, not even the most vicious form of *Maya*, can stop me.... I belong to the family of Lakshmi and Narayan and I am responsible for setting in motion the laws and rules of governance for the next 5,000 years.... I am a sample and example rolled into one.

DAY - TWO

What you think, you become.... Even the state of Master God is within reach.... When Baba has bestowed this title, who can take it away? The seed was already sown—the seed of greatness, as blessings which came from

Baba as soon as he selected me. Even the ordinary seed is intelligent.... it keeps and protects its secret of creation from all adversities and opens up only when the time is ripe, the situation congenial and when nature is ready to nurture it in her bowel. Then the first leaf sprouts.... The whole world is waiting with great anticipation and expectation for the birth of the first *Satyugi* prince and his companions.... I see myself as a member of that elite company.... I see the palaces glittering, when light falls on the countless jewels on the walls.... I see the courtyard where my companions are dancing away to a rhythmic tune.

DAY - THREE

Cruelty, hatred, low self-esteem etc., cannot be my property.... During the spiritual sustenance of 75 years, Baba has not uttered a word that has hurt His children. So I have a right to His property only: sweetness, tolerance, mercy, love, happiness... Unknowingly or knowingly, I have been collecting the residues of vices instead of the cream of virtues, and the time has come to pay up or face the consequences.... I am the ancestor of the human race and

I belong to the deity world. Everyone is looking up to me as a saviour, for succour and redemption from this *Kaliyug*.... There is no fear, guilt or inferiority complex left in me. Everyone is a soul and my brother.... World benefaction and transformation will not be complete until each of my brothers gets his birthright from Baba. I am the instrument. I shall succeed as I have done innumerable times before, Kalpa after Kalpa.

DAY- FOUR

How elevating is the feeling generated by Baba's question today as to when will I be ready to reveal Him through my actions, my royal demeanour and my Angad-like stable stage.... I see myself surrounded by devotees, who do not yet know that their favourite deity (*Isht dev*) is within touching distance.... Their candour and faith take me back to *Dwapar Yug*.... Now they are all standing in front of the temple door, waiting with half-closed eyes for the sanctum sanctorum to open and to have the *darshan* that will wipe their tears of sorrow and fill their hearts with joy.... The door opens and they hasten to catch a glimpse. That makes their day... and that gives me here, right now, the greatest joy which is beyond senses and beyond the reach of mere mortals.

DAY -FIVE

Baba said recently, 'Keep at it (*purusharth*) and Maya will get tired of boxing and quit.... I feel like the king of *Satyug*.... Maya may try all the tricks but I as *swarajya adhikari* am oblivious of that, just like the king of *Satyug* (*Vishwa – Rajya Adhikari*) for whom there is no Maya. I am sitting in the aura of purity created by my *purusharth*.... Every addition to my effort is going to add to the aura, making it more and more difficult for Maya to enter.... Now I can achieve the super-sensuous stage at will.... I am dancing the cosmic dance with Baba.... I am Master Brahma, I am Master Vishnu, I am Master Shankar.... I love you Baba, how can I ever thank you adequately?

I'M AWARE HE'S THERE

– Saral, Borivali (East), Mumbai

In those moments of special joy
When happiness kisses my feet
And I really yearn to fly,
I'm aware He's there...
He lifts me beyond the sky
To sprinkle joys beneath
And see them multiply.

When sorrows seem to abound
And I grope for hope around
Before I look for anyone else
I'm just aware He's there...
To open doors I never found
To bring in those who truly care
And lift me from despair

To take me beyond fear
He is here
My companion, my dear
He is finally here.

**“YEARS MAY WRINKLE THE
SKIN, BUT TO GIVE UP
ENTHUSIASM
WRINKLES THE SOUL.”**

– Samuel Ullman

THE ETERNAL JOURNEY



– B. K. Mukut Sarma, Nalbari, Assam



B.K. sister Kamini started his seven-day course. As he had already read the lessons through postal correspondence, it was rather easier for him. He just sought clarifications on the points, which he had not understood.

The first lesson itself was very complicated for him. **He found it very difficult to consider himself to be a soul. Will he not know who he is?**

Sukumar had asked B.K. sister Kamini – **“Madam, if I am really a soul, why then I do not feel so? I always feel myself to be a body!”**

“No teaching can be imparted within a single day. I hope one day you will definitely have soul experience”, B.K. Kamini replied to him.

Two or three days later, sister Kamini suddenly asked him – “How do you feel now?”

“Fine madam” – he replied gently.

Sukumar still did not understand why on that particular day sister Kamini asked him so. But on that very moment, he really had some

mystic spiritual experience. He felt himself to be very light. He even had doubted, whether his body was there or not. “Does the soul get separated from the body?” He touched his left hand with the other hand to check whether his body was there or not!

In another lesson, he asked sister Kamini, “Madam, you are repeatedly telling that in Golden Age and Silver Age, there exists a high class civilization and man or their ancestors were some holy and praiseworthy deities. But science has widely published that man’s ancestors were totally uncivilized.... or they were only some monkeys or apes?”

“Does the scientist have ever seen man’s ancestors in that uncivilized form or as monkey? But Shiva Baba had gifted many of us divine vision about that deity sovereignty.”

“Divine vision! Deity sovereignty!” – Sukumar stared at B.K. sister Kamini.

“O.K.” – he will later try to understand about the ‘Divine

vision’.

His seven-day course was completed.

On completion of the seven-day course, B.K. sister Nilima was reading before him a four-page bulletin written in Hindi. Later he knew that it is called ‘*Murli*’. Sister Nilima was reading it very fast. He could not follow it properly. Just two or three sentences were ringing in his ears – **“I’m *Trikaldarshi* (knower of three aspects of time), I’m *Trinetri* (having the third eye of Knowledge). I make *Trikaldarshi* and *Trinetri* to you as well.*”**

Madam, what do “*Trikaldarshi*” and “*Trinetri*” mean?

Nay, sister Nilima was avoiding his question. Perhaps she was in a hurry and just wanted to complete her lesson.

Sukumar saw only darkness and darkness around him! He murmured the famous English poem that he had read in his school days –

“Oh lead kindly light
Amid the encircling gloom

Lead though me on
Keep though my feet.

I do not want to see the
distance scene
Just one step is enough for me”
He had no intention to
become “*Trikaldarshi*” and
“*Trinetri*”. He just needed the
power to discriminate between
truth and falsehood.

For the first time in his life, he
prayed before the Supreme –
“Om Asato Maa Sadgamay
Om Tamso Maa Jyotirgamay
Om Mrityu Mamratam Gamay
Om Shanti-Shanti-Shanti”

Sister Nilima advised him to
attend the regular ‘*Murli*’ class
at morning or evening. He
preferred the evening time.

Sukumar could still remember
the first ‘*Murli*’ class that he
attended.

Like other days, on that day
also, he was sitting in the visiting
room. Then after sometime,
B.K. sister Kamini asked him
to sit in the classroom and
introduced him with a senior
B.K. brother Baikuntha.
Brother Baikuntha asked
Sukumar very politely to sit near
him.

B.K. sister Kamini started the
‘*Murli*’ class. As he was a new
comer attending the *Murli* class
for the first time, sister Kamini
slightly explained about the
‘*Murli*’ – “**This is a ‘*Sakar***

Murli’ — means the revelation
made by the Supreme Father
God Shiva (Shiv Baba)
through his corporeal
medium Prajapita Brahma
Baba before the latter
ascended to the angelic form.”

Listening to the ‘*Murli*’ for
the first time, Sukumar really got
astonished! Though in the postal
correspondence course and also
in the seven-day course, it was
repeatedly stated that this new
knowledge is the gift of
Supreme Soul, but Sukumar did
never mind it seriously.

**“For a devotee, everything
is the gift of God! The sun
rays, the moon light, the wind,
the rain, the thunderstorm,
the tempest, the earthquake,
the volcanoes, our food, drink,
dresses and habitant, the loss
and profit of our sin/crime and
benevolent acts, all are the
gifts of God! Likewise, this
knowledge is also perhaps the
gift of God!”- He thought.**

But on that day, he had
listened to those direct
revelations of Shiva Baba and
that was too in first person—
“*Kaam-Chita Par Baith, Tum
Log Kaale Bane ho, Abhi
Tumhe Gyan-Chita Par
Baithana Hai...* (As you souls
have become impure because
of being subjected to the pyre
of sex-lust, now you have to sit
on the pyre of Knowledge...)”

There was a great tug-of-
war in Sukumar’s mind –

“Is it the Supreme Power in
whose direction the whole
universe is running? Is it the
same ‘*Murli*’ that excited the
‘Gopes’ and ‘Gopis’ (devotees
in Indian legend) who left their
homes and all worldly
belongings for the sake of
Murli? Is it the auspicious
‘Geeta’ knowledge that once
destroyed the attachment of
Arjuna and encouraged him to
fight against vices?”

B.K. sister Kamini could
perhaps read his mental
situation. He could still
remember her words to him —

“What is there to become so
serious? These are the true
revelations of Shiva Baba.”

Sukumar did not have any
faith or devotion to God in his
present life. He could not know
where he might find
unknowable and never seen
God? On the other hand, he did
not have even slightest
inclination to any spiritual
preceptor or any religious leader
too.

But today, when B.K. sister
Kamini proclaimed that these
were the true revelation of the
supreme, he could not stop his
mind not to become surprised.
He thought in his mind himself
– “Although these may not be
the revelations of the Supreme,
but still these can never be the
teachings of an ordinary person

also? Then who may be that extraordinary and knowledgeable person?"

On that very day, he wrote a letter to his friend Diganta-

"Though you (the Brahma Kumaris) have claimed that the 'Murlis' are the direct revelations of the Supreme Soul, yet I can't believe it! Of course, I confess that these are some mighty imaginations of a "Great-Great intellectual" brain, who always thinks positively".

Diganta too answered promptly – "Look Sukumar, a bad person can't always think, talk or imagine good things. Even a bad person might have developed the habit of positive thinking and talking, then he could not remain a bad person forever. One day he might be converted into a good person."

Again, "who may be more **"Great-Great intellectual" than the God Himself?"**

But even before any reply could be received from Mr. Diganta, Sukumar had developed full faith on the 'Murli'. Say, within this very short period, Sukumar took a new birth and was reborn as a 'Dwija (means one who is born twice). The second birth was actually an oral rebirth through the lotus mouth of Prajapita Brahma Baba i.e. knowledge imparted through his lotus mouth by the Supreme Shiva Baba. Sukumar regarded it as new

birth because within this very short period, his outlook, belief pattern and lifestyle was totally changed.

Sukumar attended the 'murli' classes regularly in the evening.

He had noticed that the 'Sakar Murlis' always start with a question. Perhaps it is a technique of the Supreme Teacher to draw attention of his pupils. On the particular day, the question was "What will be the sign of successful third eye operation case by Baba?"

The answer to the question was "Such children will remain very happy and will dance with super-sensuous joy and happiness."

Listening to the question and its answer, Sukumar was bound to think and re-think –

"...that means there are distinctly two categories of people amongst the B.Ks. Some of the B.K.s have already undergone the third eye operation successfully, but some others have yet to achieve success."

Looking towards the senior brothers and sisters present in the class, Sukumar tried to trace out those successful cases –

"Do all of them have successfully been operated? Only he is left now? Of course he has just put his footstep in this new path! Gift of third eye is beyond his imagination! Even his physical eyes are

about to be closed!"

"Will his third eye also open or not? What should he do for a successful operation?"

B.K sister had explained that for a successful third eye operation, one should sit calmly in the operation theatre before the supreme surgeon. That means he would have to attend the 'Murli' classes regularly.

Sukumar still could remember that in his childhood during Durga Pooja festival, he noticed the idol of Goddess Durga very carefully. One day pointing towards the close eye at the forehead of Goddess Durga, Sukumar asked his uncle,

"What type of eye is this?"

His uncle explained him – **"This is the third eye of Goddess Durga. When this third eye of Goddess Durga will be opened, then the destruction of 'Kali-Yuga' i.e. the Iron Aged world will take place."**

On that day, Sukumar made a prayer in his mind "Oh God 'Sada-Shiva' (the whole family members of Sukumar were devotees of 'Sada-Shiva'), the third eye of Goddess Durga should never be opened!"

But today Sukumar has prayed before the supreme soul **"Oh, Shiv Baba, please open my third eye also! I also want to dance with the great bliss and happiness beyond senses!"**

(Contd. In Next Issue)

FLYING HIGH: ON THE WINGS OF GODLY LOVE

– B. K. Rakesh Dhir, New Delhi

The practitioners of Rajyoga are well aware that Incorporeal God Shiva revealed deep spiritual truths through the lotus-mouth of Prajapita Brahma, starting from the year 1936-37. Bapdada (Incorporeal God Shiva and Prajapita Brahma) still impart this knowledge through another human medium, i.e., Rajyogini Dadi Gulzar. Meeting Bapdada at the International Headquarters of Prajapita Brahma Kumaris Ishwariya Vishwa Vidyalaya, Mount Abu is always a unique occasion for lakhs of Brahma Kumaris and Brahma Kumars when they receive God's blessings and divine inspirations for personal growth. Divine meeting with Bapdada has always been a blissful experience for me also and I look forward to it with keen interest and yearning. This year also I had a golden opportunity of meeting Bapdada on 30.11.2011.

It was my feeling that Rajyogini Dadi Gulzar is the most fortunate soul for being the instrument of the Almighty Lord. She had been attracted to this knowledge at a very tender age of eight years when she

surrendered herself for the transformation of this society. One of the founding members of Om Mandali, she was chosen by God Himself to be His human medium after Prajapita Brahma attained the angelic state. I had an intense desire to meet such a great soul.

One night before my departure to Abu, I got a feel from Baba: 'this time you are going to fly, my sweet child'. For flying, two wings of zeal and enthusiasm are required and without detachment, no one can fly. These words inspired me and I handed over all my burdens to Baba.

When a soul is in deep love with the Supreme Soul, he or she may have to face opposition from society, but only a free bird can know the joy of flying, having passed all impediments with a smile. Deep love with the Supreme Soul helps us to shed body-consciousness. If one has to fly as a free bird, one has to courageously let go of the branches of body-consciousness and other attachments on which one is sitting, instead of crying loudly for others' help so as to enable him to be free and fly.

The visit to Abu had a dual purpose this time. I was to receive the M.Sc degree in value education along with Avyakt meeting. Due to huge rush, I had to settle on the floor of Diamond Hall for Bapdada Milan, although I had been allotted a seat by the Education wing. For a moment, I lost heart; spondylitis had already started troubling me. Thoughts as to how would I sit for six hours on the floor, crept in my mind.

I asked Baba, "You had said "I would be flying and here I was almost flooded". Just then I received a call from the sister of my centre that a chair had been arranged in the sitting enclosure. I thanked Baba and felt a bit ashamed for allowing such thoughts. This incident made me learn that during flying, one may face bad weather, stormy wind and gale, storm of dust, but the bird flies to its destination, overcoming all these obstacles. Those who have determination and self-esteem are able to do that. Detachment from the body and other propensities enable one to fly.

Meeting with Bapdada was an exhilarating experience and I filled myself with Baba's boons. I felt spiritually charged and each and every cell of the body was intoxicated with Bapdada's love. I felt humbled and yet so proud that I was among the few

chosen ones on whom God showered His choicest blessings and love. I was flying indeed!!

Next morning, I left for Gyansarovar where I had the opportunity to spend a day. From there I went to Pandav Bhawan. Meditation in Baba's cottage and then in the meditation hall further made me fly to higher realms. I actually didn't feel like coming back on earth.... just Baba and me.... as if time had really stopped. Vibrations of this place were really powerful. There is instant intoxication of Godly love. With moist eyes and trance-like stage, I went back to Gyansarovar. Morning meditation was an added bonus to the transcendental state. B.K. Nirmala Didi and the brothers of Gyansarovar made me feel like one of the Madhuban family. This was my real family!! Actually I didn't feel like coming back.

On the day of our return journey, we received our degrees in Diamond Hall, Shantivan. I packed my bags as the train for Delhi was scheduled to depart around midnight, but my ticket was still in the waiting list.

I had some important business commitments for the next day. Now, what Baba? "Keep flying", He said softly. What? Fly....Got it!. I hired a taxi in the morning, reached Ahmedabad airport and checked in for the afternoon flight to Delhi. Was this what He meant by flying? Was it over? I was enjoying the hangover of Madhuban.

As I turned towards the security check-in, I couldn't believe my eyes. Dadi Gulzar was being wheeled in for the same flight. Oh my God!! It is not over yet, I exclaimed. I rushed towards Dadiji and to my amazement, I found them looking for someone to wheel her inside. My both hands were full. I was the chariot of the 'chariot' of God. I had Dadi all by myself-what a terrific feeling! I could feel immense power and vibrations run through my body. I had full one hour of chit chat with my Dadi, took long, very caring, powerful drishti from her. She gave me chocolates as *toli*.

At that time, I remembered Baba's words-always remain in soul-conscious state, keep flying; the moment you are body conscious, your feet will get dirty... I was really flying....Oh My Baba, Your mystical ways!!...

A story –

A POUND OF BUTTER

There was a farmer who sold a pound of butter to the baker. One day, the baker decided to weigh the butter to see if he was getting a pound and he found that he was not. This angered him and he took the farmer to court.

The judge asked the farmer if he was using any measure. The farmer replied, our "Your Honour, I am primitive. I don't have a proper measure, but I do have a scale."

The judge asked, "Then how do you weigh the butter?"

The farmer replied, "Your Honour, since long before the baker started buying butter from me, I have been buying a pound of bread from him. Everyday, when the baker brings the bread, I put it on the scale and give him the same weight in butter. If anyone is to be blamed, it is the baker."

The moral of the story: We get back in life what we give to others. Whenever you take an action, ask yourself this question: am I giving fair value for the wages or money I hope to make?

Honesty and dishonesty become a habit. Some people practise dishonesty and can lie with a straight face.

Others lie so much that they don't even know what the truth is any more. But who are they deceiving? Themselves more than anyone else.

Honesty can be put across gently. Some people take pride in being brutally honest and, in the process, hurt others. It seems they get a bigger kick out of the brutality than the honesty. The choice of words and tact are important while expressing the truth.

— (... Contd. from Page No. 3) —
'superhuman', 'supernatural' and 'divine'.

We know that doubting philosophers will raise doubts, and perhaps, eyebrows on our use of the words 'superhuman' and 'divine' and would come out with scathing criticism, ruling out 'divine intervention' in the affairs of mankind and emphasising that God does not play any role in human history. But, if besides gleaning through the formal and recorded history, as we know history today, one takes into account the shreds and pieces of history scattered in almost all scriptures of the world, one would find it unreasonable to deny that the mention of this event in the antediluvian period cannot be without substance or a kernel of truth. Almost all ancient texts mention the establishment of paradise, *Satyuga* or Golden Age by God and the creation of Brahma, Adam, Adi Deva or the first man. Now, this is really the event that Shivratri signifies. Shivratri is a festival celebrated in India to commemorate the descent of God (who because of His salubrious acts is also known as Shiva), who uses the medium of Brahma to create order out of chaos and law out of anarchy and to establish an era of purity, peace and prosperity. This event in its grandeur and magnanimity and impact and quality stands apart

from all the rest. Let's understand how it is an event of greater significance than any other event in history, say, for instance, the Renaissance, Reformation or Glorious Revolution which are mentioned in books on world history and are considered the most important events.

Comparison with Shivratri

– God's Birth Night

Now let us compare it with Shivratri or the event of God's descent. The very word '*ratri*' which means 'night', signifies that God Shiva, intervened in history and the affairs of mankind when there was utter darkness shrouding and clouding the intellectual horizon of mankind. The event of Shiva's divine birth is celebrated on the 14th dark night of Phagun, which is the last month of the Indian calendar and thus implies, in allegorical terms, the climax of the darkness of ignorance at the end of one world cycle. At such a time, superstition and blind faith are rife in society. There is corruption rampant in the whole society – the places of worship included. As a result, a large number of people become atheists and lead amoral lives. There is religious persecution of one sect by another or by atheists

of the theists. Moral values having been thrown overboard, there is lawlessness, anarchy and confusion. This is described in the scriptures as '*Dharma Glani*', i.e. moral turpitude, religious decrepitude and spiritual lassitude. It is at such a time that Shiva, the Incorporeal Supreme Soul, descends on the world scene to put a full stop to the vicious trend and to create a world of high ideals and morals and noble acts.

The first thing He does is that He gives a new birth or spiritual 'rebirth' to people of the time by imparting to them spiritual knowledge par excellence. He truly enlightens human beings and creates in them the spirit of equality so that they break the shackles of old dogmas, even suffering trenchant criticism and grave persecution. They bravely cut asunder the fetters of blind faith, preached by their clergy, and the superstition indulged in by their credulous relatives. He widens their mental horizons, raises high their spiritual stature and ennobles greatly their spirits.

Before He descends, people blindly believe anything and everything preached by high-caste Brahmins about heaven and hell, transmigration, God's will, the duties of a married

householder and about the wife's unquestionable obedience to and fulfilment of the desires of her husband, however vicious and immoral his desires be. Now, Shiv Baba asks all human beings to first think whether a principle or practice is right or wrong, good or bad and is based on justice and fair play or injustice and tyranny, and only then accept it. Thus, He removes a major cause of injustice which the male-dominated society had been practising without any voice having been raised against it.

Altogether new values and new concepts

God Shiva teaches, through Brahma Baba, new social values. He raises the status of women to bring it at par with that of men. He asks all men and women to be morally and spiritually as elevated as those who devote their whole time to teaching the spiritual art to others. He exhorts them to make religion as natural a part of their life as breathing, and not to keep it a separate profession, vocation or practice so that the caste system prevalent earlier becomes obsolete. He gives new

meaning to the notion of caste so that the social system is rid of caste war and class conflict and of exploitative tendencies. He gives the banner of the new revolution in the hands of women. His work in this field is based not merely on high-sounding slogans of little permanence but, rather, it takes deep roots and gains willing acceptance from not only women who find in Him their sole Liberator but also from men who do not merely acquiesce in it by force of circumstances but become its crusaders. They all hold firmly the flag of 'Total Purity' which no one had raised before. He gives altogether a new form and meaning to the worldly relationship between a husband and wife, which He bases on yogic principles and divine ethics.

Harbinger of Golden Age

God Shiva gives bold new concepts of time and space and men and matters and makes a complete departure from the past. He instils in all sections of the society of the time a spirit of crusade so that they spread in all directions, migrate to many countries and communicate this new knowledge to the world at

large. With the available media of mass communication, He does it so expeditiously that His speed is truly 'godspeed'. What the Renaissance could not achieve in three hundred years or more has now been achieved in better shape and can be seen in the world community. This period of transition is called in the Hindu scriptures as '*Sangam*' or '*Sandhi Yuga*' and in the Genesis, in the Bible, as 'The Beginning'. This is really the bridge between the old and the new. The old knowledge, by virtue of which there was, once, paradise on earth, is now revived. Or, you can say that a new light spreads to create a new age called the Golden Age, where there is the highest possible moral order, the most sublime socio-economic and political system possible, and nature also is at its best because man is completely in harmony with himself and his surroundings. This Golden Age is called *Satyuga* or *Dev Yuga* in the Indian tradition, and also paradise. In this light, Shivratri is the most important episode in world history.

Happy Greetings on the Divine Birth Night of God Shiva!

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