



The Vision

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

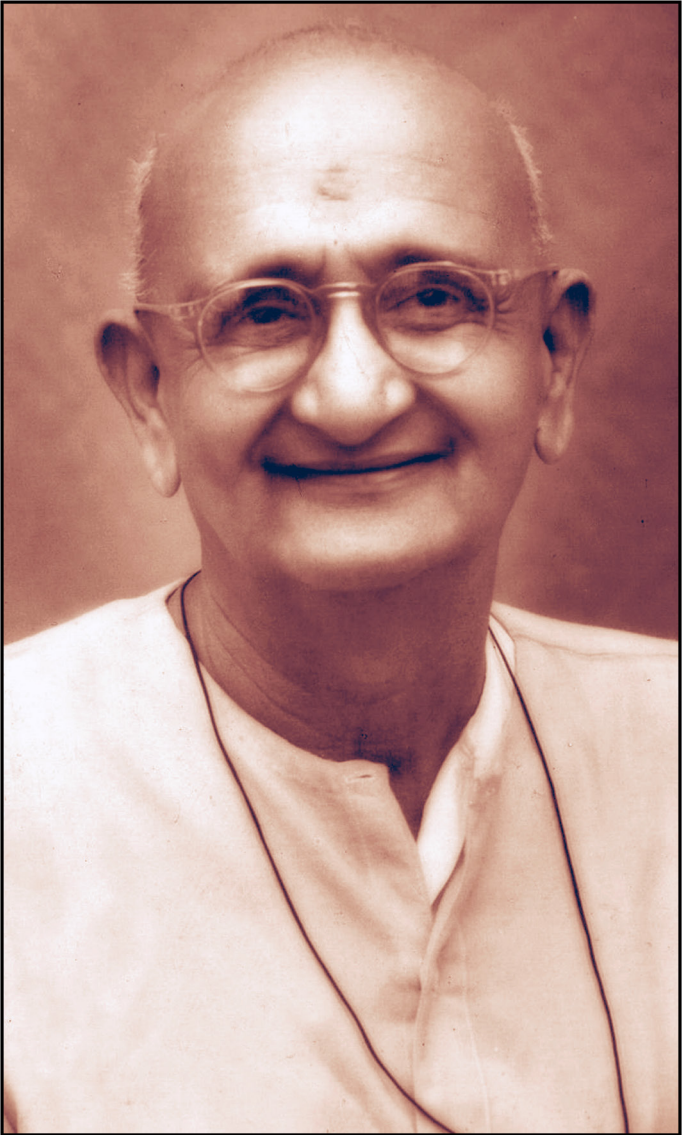
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ANANDASHRAM, PO ANANDASHRAMA 671531, INDIA



Beloved Papa Swami Ramdas (1884-1963)

Om Sri Ram jai Ram jai jai Ram

ॐ श्री राम जय राम जय जय राम

Om Sri Ram jai Ram jai jai Ram

I AM ALL YOU ARE

Your mind wanders and rests on You.
My eyes gaze and behold You.
In all the sounds I hear You.

Whatever I touch, it is You.

My heart loves, the object is You.

My life comes from You,

Always flows into you.

We are one, still we are two! □

— Swami Ramdas



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FROM THE EDITOR

As THE VISION is being sent to you electronically, as the e-version, it is now proposed to reduce the number of pages to 16 and make it more concise. We would appreciate your feedback to help us fine-tune the contents and enhance them for our spiritual journey.

Divine Embodiments

All individuals, including spiritual aspirants, tend to respond to events and individuals based on their own perspectives, even though we intellectually comprehend from scriptures and teachings of saints that we are not what we assume ourselves to be and that we are essentially, intrinsically embodiments of Divinity; the true challenge lies in realising this truth.

In addition to our chosen spiritual practices, it would be beneficial to contemplate on the words of wisdom of spiritually evolved souls. This constant reflection serves as a reminder of the ultimate goal we seek to attain.

This month's issue of THE VISION covers some of the revelations of Saints on this subject. □

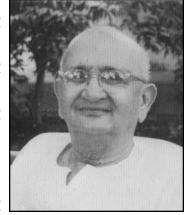
— *Editor*



MAN IS EMBODIED DIVINITY

By Swami Ramdas

Human life has a great purpose behind it. It is not given to be lived out in ignorance of the Divine Source from which it springs. When the Source is known, it flows like



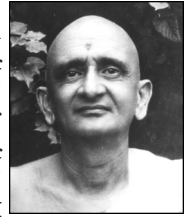
a sparkling stream imbued with immortal joy and peace, diffusing its beneficence for all alike. Otherwise, life assumes a dull and monotonous aspect. It feels that it is fettered by innumerable ties. It is like a bird trapped in a cage and struggling for freedom.

Man is an embodied Divinity. He can raise himself to the heights of spiritual eminence. He can experience his absolute and deathless existence. He can make every atom of his manifest life thrill with the Divine Consciousness. He can know his oneness with the visible nature and invisible worlds. Apparently an individual — still he lives and acts ever in tune with the Infinite. So, let your wisdom be of the Eternal, your love be of the Infinite and your actions bear the stamp of universality. Thus realise the Supreme Perfection of your life. Verily, you are He. ◻



WORDS OF BELOVED PAPA SWAMI RAMDAS

When our life is pure and attuned to nature — the expression of God — there is in us no fear or hate. Thus, by continuous awareness of our real life and being, we realise that we are one with God, the all-pervading Eternal Spirit. Let us remember who we are. We have forgotten our true Self, which is God. Tat Twam Asi — ‘That thou art,’ says the Veda. So let us think of God, meditate on Him and be awakened to the consciousness of Him. We will then transcend the body-idea, which is the cause of all ignorance and misery. Self and God are one. We must accept this as the central truth. We can see Him provided we are sufficiently pure. “Blessed are the pure in heart, because they shall see God.” By remembrance of God alone can we purify our minds. Darkness can be removed only by light. There is no other way. By constant thought of purity, our hearts become pure. God is all purity. Constant remembrance of Him will free us from lust, greed and wrath. Then the light which is already within us will shine out and permeate our whole being. □



WORDS OF PUJYA MATAJI KRISHNABAI

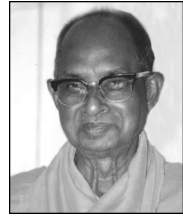


Mataji picked up Prem Sudha and opened the book on the Abhang beginning with the line “Prabhukari Paha” based on Beloved Papa’s original poem in English titled ‘I am the Tool’. After singing the lines of the Marathi Abhang softly. Mataji remarked: “See how Papa has mingled the Eternal and the transient so beautifully. In every song, Papa takes us to the highest spiritual state and then speaks of the finite state of Nama-Rupa (name and form). Now, in this song, Papa starts by telling us “Prabhukari Paha” and then goes on to say “To me ahe” or ‘I am that’. Then Papa tells us that He is the body. Thus, he tells us that He is everything. If you care to read Papa’s poem carefully, you will find the same inter-mixture of the Eternal and non-Eternal. We too can realise how they cover all the aspects of Divinity. Every poem of Papa’s refers to each one of us as His “Amsha” or particle, then to the Universe and His universal body, and finally, to One who transcends everything — One who is all that is manifest and unmanifest and is yet beyond everything. This is the Purushottama aspect of Papa — Nirguna aspect of God. □



WORDS OF PUJYA SWAMI SATCHIDANANDA

We have been feeling that we are not Divine, we are individuals and consider others also as individuals. Having full faith in the words of our masters that everything is Divine and nothing but Divine, if we go forward with intense Sadhana, we will be able to reach the goal very fast without disturbing the so-called worldly life. From the very beginning of our Sadhana, our life will be very blissful. We have only to remember our Divinity. We are not merely the body, mind, intellect or senses. We are in reality Atman only. If we accept this, naturally, we have also to accept that everyone we meet, everything we see, is also not merely the body but the Atman itself. So, **the Atman sees the Atman — the Atman deals with the Atman. This consciousness has to be maintained.** This is possible if we sincerely try for it.

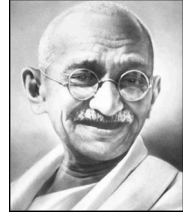


The saint is He. The sinner is He. Though it is easier to see Him in a saint, we should not be carried away by the wiles of a so-called sinner, and forget Him when He thus hides His Divinity. □

SPARK OF DIVINITY

By Mahatma Gandhi

We may not be God, but we are of God — even as a little drop of water is of the ocean. Imagine it torn away from the ocean and flung millions of miles away. It becomes



helpless, torn from its surroundings and cannot feel the might and majesty of the ocean. But if someone could point out to it that it is the ocean, its faith would revive, it would dance with joy and the whole of the might and majesty of the ocean would be reflected in it. □

Source: *Pathway To God*



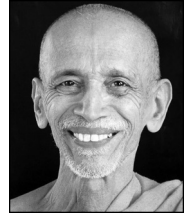
Mahatma Gandhi was essentially a man of God — a man whose supreme power and virtue lie in his magnificent influence in awakening humanity to the eternal verities of life, and leading it on to the height of moral and spiritual culture. Both East and West have recognised in him a Divine messenger of peace upon this earth.

— Swami Ramdas

NEVER FORGET YOUR DIVINITY

By Swami Chidananda

Fvery object in this outer universe is a centre of spiritual force, because it is a manifestation of the Primal Cosmic Power or Energy. A tree, a stone, falling rain, the blowing wind, everything that you can see, hear, taste, smell or touch in this universe, whether immediate or remote, is infilled by the Divine Principle. This was the experience of the Upanishadic seers, and you have to try to be constantly aware of the hidden substratum of the apparent, ever-changing names and forms.



If you are rooted in this awareness, then you are conscious of being enveloped by a Power, by a Benign Presence, a Healing Presence, a Peaceful Presence, a Radiant, Luminous Presence. Thus it becomes much easier to relate yourself directly, either through prayer, or through invoking the Divine Name which represents this Power, or through Swadhyaya (study of scriptures) which raises your mind to sublime heights. □

Source: Ponder These Truths

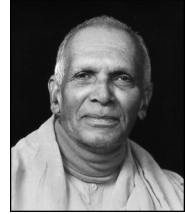


EMBODIMENTS OF DIVINITY

By Swami Ranganathananda



So far as man is concerned, there is an Eternal Element in everyone of us. Our philosophy tells: bodies come and go, the soul remains. That is why we say at death, we threw the body away. Śarīr Choḍ Diyā. I am the Atman, I am the soul, I have a body, I threw it away. That is our normal understanding. So, these people who are here, yourself, myself, we are always there. There is no time when we were not. There is no time when we shall not be. We are the Immortal Atman. That is the truth about man as taught by India's Sanātana Dharma: The human beings are essentially Divine; we have a body, subject to change, subject to death; but, our Self is essentially Divine and deathless. We are all Amṛtasya Putrāḥ, as the Śvetāśvatara Upaniṣad proclaims (2.5). Na Tvevāham Jātu Nāsam Na Tvam Neme Janādhipāḥ, 'neither myself, nor yourself, nor these kings have been not; and never shall we all cease to be'. Na Caiva Na Bhaviṣyāmaḥ Sarve Vayam Ataḥ Param, 'we are always there even after the death of the body'. □

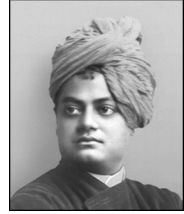


Source: Universal Message of the Bhagavad Gita

GOD — THE SUM TOTAL OF EVERYTHING IN THE UNIVERSE

By Swami Vivekananda

The Impersonal God is a living God, a principle. The difference between personal and impersonal is this, that the personal is only a man, and the impersonal idea is that He is the angel, the man, the animal, and yet something more which we cannot see, because impersonality includes all personalities, is the sum total of everything in the universe, and infinitely more besides. “As the one fire coming into the world is manifesting itself in so many forms, and yet is infinitely more besides,” so is the Impersonal.




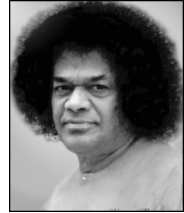
We want to worship a living God. I have seen nothing but God all my life. To see this chair you first see God, and then the chair in and through Him. He is everywhere saying, “I am”. The moment you feel “I am”, you are conscious of Existence. Where shall we go to find God if we cannot see Him in our own hearts and in every living being? Thou art all that exists, a wonderful living God who is the only fact in the universe. □

Source: Complete Works Of Swami Vivekananda

DIVINITY IS PRESENT IN EVERY BEING

By Sathya Sai Baba

 Someone questioned Shirdi Sai Baba, “Are you God?” What was His reply?



“All are the forms of the Divine. I am not only Divine, but also the Divinity that is present in the Divine,” said Baba.

So, the same Divinity is present in every being as all are the forms of the Divine. But, people are not able to realise the Divine because they drink intoxicating wine of worldly desires. Wine leads to ignorance but not to the Divine. So, you should consume something that promotes Divinity.

What is it? It is love. If you taste the fruit of love, you need no other nourishment. Love is the essence of all fruits. It is the goal of all goals. It is the end of all spiritual practices. Cultivate such love with a pure and steady mind. For this, you should keep the body, mind, and senses on the right track.”

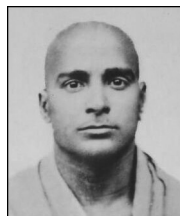
Source: sathyasai.org



MANIFESTATION IS DIVINITY EMBODIED

By Swami Rama Tirtha

That Being shining in the sun is no other than myself; That Self in me is certainly the Being shining in the Sun; By such texts the Vedas preach the Light of lights; the Self-Supreme; I, That Self art thou; Yea! same, the same...



When viewed from the stand-point of God — Self, the whole world becomes an effusion of Beauty, expression of Joy and outpouring of Bliss. The limitation of vision being overcome, there remains nothing ugly.


When everything is my own Self, how could anything be other than sweetness condensed. Self is Anand (Bliss); therefore, Self-realisation is equal to the realisation of the whole world as Bliss-crystallised, or perception of the powers of Nature as my own hand and feet, and feeling the universe as my own sweet Self embodied. □

Source: In Woods of God-Realisation Volume 2



DEAR CHILDREN

Are You God?

ne cold evening during the holiday season, a little boy of about six or seven stood in front of a store window. The little child had no shoes and his clothes were mere rags.

A young woman passing by saw the little boy and could read the longing in his pale blue eyes. She took the child by the hand and led him into the store. There she bought him some new shoes and a complete set of warm clothing.

They came back outside into the street and the woman said to the child, “Now you can go home and have a very happy holiday.”

The little boy looked up at her and asked, “Are you God, Ma’am?”

She smiled down at him and replied, “No son, I’m just one of His children.”

The little boy then said, “I knew you had to be some relation.”



EPISTLES OF SWAMI RAMDAS

Beloved Ram,

B... The fount of Immortal Bliss is ever within you; you are that itself. Our Real Being is, indeed, an illuminated mass of Eternal Splendour and Delight. Even as the waves are not different from the ocean, so the Lila or the manifestation, is only a series of vast movements of the Eternal Anandam which is at the base, heart and core of all things in the universe.

Behold in all movements of your mind and in all activities of your body nothing but the play of Anand.

Joy and grief, pain and loss, success and failure, virtue and sin are all mind-made. Supreme, everlasting joy is the only Reality. Realise that you are the blissful Atman — motion in external work, rest in the inner calmness of the Spirit.

The Atman is the Cosmic Soul and your action belongs to the Cosmic activity. Your physical body is but an instrument of the Divine. Let His power work through you, as He wills, unhampered by the ego-sense. Yours is to enjoy immortal joy, by complete surrender.

Doubt not, fear not, worry not. Realise that He and His infinite power within you guide you, control you, and actuate you to do all things at all times...

Ramdas



IN MEMORIAM

Sri Suresh Pardhanani (aged 79), a devotee of the Ashram from Pune, was called by Beloved Papa on the 11th of September 2023. We pray for Beloved Papa's blessings on the dear departed soul for eternal rest and peace at His lotus feet. □



ANANDASHRAM NEWS

15,500-CRORE NAMA JAPA YAGNA FOR WORLD PEACE: The total Japa received in the fourth round of the 15500-Crore Nama Japa Yagna For World Peace in the month of August is 210 crores. The grand total of the Japa done so far in this round now stands at 600 crores. □



15TH MAHASAMADHI DAY OF PUJYA SWAMI SATCHIDANANDAJI

On 12th of October 2023, we observe Pujya Swamiji's 15th Mahasamadhi Day.

Pujya Swamiji's life teaches us that our assertive nature should not prevent us from considering the views and opinions of others.



120TH JAYANTI OF PUJYA MATAJI KRISHNABAI

Pujya Mataji Krishnabai's 120th Jayanti will be celebrated on the 14th of October 2023.

Pujya Mataji's motherly touch in all that she did showed us how spirituality can be applied in daily life.

On these sacred occasions, THE VISION offers its humble homage to Pujya Mataji and Pujya Swamiji with a prayer to bless all devotees with the intensity to actualise the spiritual values in their daily lives.

ॐ
श्री राम जय राम जय राम
THOUGHT FOR
THE MONTH
ANANDASHRAM

Behold God within you, and then behold Him everywhere as all the manifested worlds. Don't adhere to the lower planes; don't seek satisfaction there. Soar up into the regions of your transcendent being. Aspire, aspire, aspire, until the highest goal is reached!

— Swami Ramdas