



The Vision

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

Vol. 91

NOVEMBER 2023

No. 02



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

LOVE ALONE IS REAL

My Being is Love, for my Being is Light
 My thoughts go forth to pierce the heavens
 But turn back to woo the Love of my heart.

The ocean waves lash against the shores

They raise the foam of Love.

My Love I find everywhere.

My Love has become this, that and all.

Love alone is real.

If Love is not, all else is useless.

— **Swami Ramdas**



Vol. 91**November 2023****No. 02****CONTENTS**

From The Editor	-	5
Nature Of True Love	- Swami Ramdas	6
Words Of Beloved Papa	- Swami Ramdas	7
Words Of Pujya Mataji	- Mataji Krishnabai	8
Words Of Pujya Swamiji	- Swami Satchidananda	9
Dear Children	- Dr. Bhujang Shetty	10
Epistles Of Swami Ramdas	-	11
Pujya Swami Muktanandaji's		
Visit To Chennai	-	12
Ideal Of The Ashram	-	12
Triune Path	-	15
Daily Routine In Ashram	-	15
In Memoriam	-	16
Anandashram News	-	16
15,500-Crore Nama Japa		
Yagna For World Peace -		16
Pujya Swamiji's 15 th		
Mahasamadhi Day	-	16
Pujya Mataji Krishnabai's		
120 th Jayanti	-	17
Bookstall	-	18
Anand Kutir	-	18

THE VISION

A monthly Magazine

Published by

ANANDASHRAM

PO Anandashrama 671531, Kanhangad, Kerala, India

Phone: (0467) 2203036, 2970160, 2207403

Web: www.anandashram.orgEmail: anandashram@gmail.com

For free edition of "The Vision" on the web,
please visit: www.anandashram.org

FROM THE EDITOR

Normally, as soon as we hear the word ‘Love’, what wells up in our mind is the sense of closeness or intimacy with an object or person. At the same time, we have also learnt from experience that love based on physical affinity is not long lasting and therefore a source of misery both to the lover and the loved. It is only when we come into contact with a spiritual preceptor that we understand that ‘Love’ based on the feeling of spiritual oneness is true Love.

Our Gurudev, Beloved Papa Swami Ramdas, amplifies this theme thus: “Divine Love is the highest attainment. All spiritual practices should end in this sweet consummation. Love is the end of the quest. See that you are absorbed in God who is Love and become an image of Him. Let all our emotions be of Love. Life is dry and insipid if it is not filled with Love.”

The words of Peace Pilgrim explain it further: “If you have a long face and a chip on your shoulder, if you are not radiant with joy and friendliness, if you are not filled to overflowing with love and goodwill for all beings and all creatures and all creation, one thing is certain: you do not know God!”

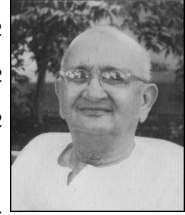
This month’s issue of THE VISION highlights words of various Masters on this subject. □

— *Editor*

NATURE OF TRUE LOVE

By Swami Ramdas

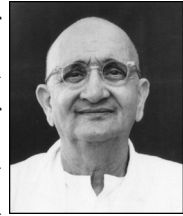
Unity and oneness are the true nature of Love. Where there is a sense of division, where there is the idea of ‘mine’ and ‘thine’, where there is self-seeking and self-aggrandisement, there does not live true Love. Therefore, Divine Love, which is true Love, is impersonal in character and all-pervading in nature. This Love is God and this Love is our real being and life. To realise this Love is the struggle of every aspirant on the path of God-realisation.



Again, a doubt is raised when two persons are engaged, say in a talk, and out of whom one is a Self-realised soul, how would he commune with the other or look at the other having the consciousness of oneness in him? Of course, it is possible, just as you look at your own reflection in the mirror. There you see distinctly two different forms, one is yourself and the other your own image. But you know that the two are really one. So also, your attitude towards all life and manifestation is that you are one with all that appears and moves in this universe. □

WORDS OF BELOVED PAPA SWAMI RAMDAS

It has often been asked whether Divine Love is realised and practised on the dual plane or on the non-dual plane. It is a mistaken belief that Love acts merely on the dual plane without an underlying realisation of oneness between the lover and the beloved. In fact, the flow of Love starts in its outward expression from its basis which is infinite and impersonal Truth.



God is infinite Love. It is not that we are to love God, but we have to realise God as Love. This Love is the fundamental attribute of the all-pervading Atman who is our real being and existence. The moment we have realised that we are this Truth, our vision is universalised and we feel our identity with all creatures, beings and things of this globe. In this supreme consciousness of oneness of all life and manifestation we attain to the perfect fulfilment of Love in us and in respect of everything in the world. □



WORDS OF PUJYA MATAJI KRISHNABAI

Right from the beginning, while I could understand and accept the role played by Papa's (God's) Love as Creator and Protector, I could never bring myself to understand



how the same Universal Love which created and protected could also destroy. Over this, when I sat before Papa in the early days, mentally I used to ask him a lot of questions to make me understand how Love could play a 'destructive' role, as I looked at it.

Then, Papa (God) enabled me to reach the fifth Chakra (through deep inward journey) and, thereafter, I began to experience — all due to His Love only — increasingly a state of emptiness all around me and within me. Everything seemed to vanish into Nothingness and I felt the kind of Void that you see when you go outside and look up at the sky. Then, He made me understand what the so-called destruction meant. It was no contradiction of His Love at all. It was nothing but the dissolution of everything into Nothingness, that is, return to Papa's (God's) true state, which meant all Void. □



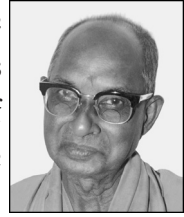
WORDS OF PUJYA SWAMI SATCHIDANANDA



Attachment Turns To Pure

Love: Attachments to persons

can be turned into pure Love if you train the mind to look upon those persons as different forms of God.



Loving one's own close relations is all right but, in the case of the Sadhakas, that Love should be transformed to pure Love based on seeing God in all of them. There will be no attachment then, even if you move with them closely and remember them often.



True Love Makes Us Feel Oneness With All:

True Love means loving another, feeling oneness with him. The other may apparently be different but we are really one. In fact, the whole universe is a single unit of the Saguna Swarupa of our Beloved Papa who Himself is the substratum for the manifestation. We are all one, belonging to the universal body of our Beloved Papa (God). When I stand apart from that universal manifestation and look upon all of you as His innumerable and different forms, it gives me great joy, and to go on loving that way is the best thing that we can do. □

DEAR CHILDREN

One night a man had a dream that he was taking a walk. Across the sky flashed scenes from his life. For each scene he noticed two sets of footprints on the sand: one belonging to him, and the other to the Lord.

When the last scene flashed before him, he looked back at the footprints in the sand and he noticed that many times along the path of his life, there was only one set of footprints. He also noticed that this happened at the very lowest and saddest moment of his life. This really bothered him and he questioned the Lord about it, “Lord, you said that once I decided to follow you, you would walk with me all the way. But I have noticed that during the most troublesome times in my life, there is only one set of footprints. Don’t understand why, when I needed you most, you would leave me.” The Lord replied, “My son, my precious child, I love you and I will never leave you; during your times of trial and suffering, when you saw only one set of footprints, it was then that I carried you.” □

Source: Power Of Love



EPISTLES OF SWAMI RAMDAS

Beloved Ram,

...Prem is born of the universal vision, that is, of Nirguna Darshan. It is like the Ganges reaching the ocean and becoming one with it. The true devotee is he who has realised that he and the Lord of the Universe are not separate. It is not a vision, merely external or merely internal. It is the spiritualisation of his entire being, through complete union with and absorption in the Cosmic Spirit and Power. Thereafter, he may assume, for the sake of Prem-Lila, any role in his relation with God.

No doubt communion with saints is a great help and their sayings teach us the right path, but we ought to outgrow all external help and obtain liberation through our own experience and realisation...

Realise, realise, realise! Give up all preconceived notions and thoughts borrowed from the expressions and sayings of saints who gave vent to them in the various moods of their Self-realisation. See for yourself, understand for yourself and assert and make manifest your own Divine nature... □

Ramdas

PUJYA SWAMI MUKTANANDAJI'S VISIT TO CHENNAI



As willed by Beloved Papa, Pujya Swamiji visited Chennai from the 28th of September to the 3rd of October. During his sojourn, a 3-day spiritual retreat was held at Prem Nagar, Padappai. Some of the points covered in the sessions were as follows:

- **Ideal of the Ashram:** The sessions started with an in-depth study on the words of Beloved Papa on the ideal of the Ashram, which is: 'Universal Love and Service based upon a vision of Divinity in all beings and creatures.' There emerged four points during the study:

1. Vision of Divinity: It means identifying the Common Factor — our Origin — in all of us. In this context, the following words of Beloved Papa will help us start our journey of identifying the Common Factor: "Try to enter into the mysterious origin of your and the world-life. To know who you are in reality is the real quest..."

The Origin: When an effort is made to move along in this direction, we realise that although initially we thought that our parents were our origin, we can soon infer that they were merely the instrumental causes because they were also

born to their parents, who were, in turn, born to their own parents, and so on. At best, we may be able to trace back a few generations, but not all the way to the First Cause / Origin. Now our efforts turn to getting to know the Origin from which everything has sprouted, including us. When the intellect pleads its inability to find the First Cause, we can seek the answers from Srimad Bhagavad Gita, in which the Lord said, “Beejam Maam Sarva Bhutanam” (I am the Eternal Seed of everything).

The Great Provider: At the beginning, we do not have any clear-cut idea about God. He is not an entity. Hence, Beloved Papa defines Him as the Subtle and Mysterious Power. This Power is the seed, from which the present sense of individuality came into being. When we, in the form of a seed, were in our mother’s womb, this Power enabled us to develop 200 and odd organs in 9½ months, which function in a well-coordinated manner.

When we came out into the world, we did not bring anything with us; the Power which gave us Life and the body, has been providing us with everything through Mother Nature: the air to breathe, the water to drink, the earth to exist,

space to move about, 98.4-degree temperature to keep us alive; the sun, rains, metals, minerals, gases, vegetables, fruits, pulses. As we grow, our dependence on creature comforts also increases; none of them are made by us. Even the basic requirements — brush, paste, soap, wash basin, commode, dress, food, language, education, profession — have been provided by Him through the Primordial Intelligence expressing through His selected instruments who are a part of the Society. Now we realise that we are what we are because of the bounteous gifts given by Him through Mother Nature and Society. But, when we deal with men and matters, we do it from our ‘me’ and ‘mine’ level, oblivious of our original nature. Should we not remember our Origin and react based upon that? Constant remembrance of our Origin helps us see the Common Factor in as many creations as possible, facilitating the expansion from ‘me’ to ‘we’ and then from ‘we’ to ‘Him’, which in turn reduces the dominance of ‘me’ and ‘mine’.

2. Mutual love and service: Ashram is a school where we come to learn Universal Love and Service. This is the place where every effort will be made to cultivate the spirit of mutual love and service, so that what is realised within

its walls may prove as an example for the right conduct of human life in the outside world.

3. The Lord is our help and guide: We should endeavour to become aware that the sense of individuality, Mother Nature and Society exist because of Him only. Therefore, our reliance on God should be total, knowing that He alone is behind everything.

4. Home of love and bliss: We should feel a sense of belongingness towards the Ashram. When we are at home, we will not find fault or complain even if something goes wrong; we will merely try to set right the situation in whatever manner possible.

- **Triune Path:** To facilitate this expansion, Beloved Papa has placed before us the triune path of Nama, Seva, Dhyana. Nama — to remember Him; Seva — to serve Him in all forms, animate and inanimate; and Dhyana — to feel His presence within and then without.
- **Daily Routine In Ashram:** The programmes in Ashram, set by Pujya Mataji, serve as a reminder of the ideal of the Ashram and are a means to connect ourselves with it often. □

(To be continued...)

IN MEMORIAM

Smt Meena Baghirathi S, a.k.a. Sudha (aged 56), who was an ardent devotee of the Ashram from Bangalore and the wife of Sri Suryanarayan CS, was called by Beloved Papa on the 5th of October 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 September was 200 crores. The grand total of the Japa done so far in this round now stands at 800 crores.



PUJYA SWAMI SATCHIDANANDAJI'S 15TH MAHASAMADHI DAY: This day, which was observed on the 12th of October 2023, reminded all of Pujya Swamiji's exhortation: "Human birth is a gateway to liberation; our True Being is our destination — our Real Home, our own Self; we go back as naked as we started from there."

Our life has not been initiated by us; it has been initiated by God. This fact is often forgotten. Therefore, we interact only from the 'me' and 'mine' level. Pujya Swamiji wanted us to return to our Real Home, which he emphasised could be achieved by approaching It in the spiritual nakedness of the soul. This means all of our preconceived notions, assumptions, rights and wrongs, likes and dislikes, etc. have to be given up.

What prevents us from approaching our Real Home is the sense of 'doership'; while the fact is that He gave us the sense of individuality to function as per His will. When we get stabilised in this truth, we will be moving towards our Real Home.



PUJYA MATAJI KRISHNABAI'S 120TH JAYANTI: This occasion, which was celebrated on the 14th of October 2023, was instrumental in making all deeply ponder over her following inspiring words: "All that Papa wants us to do is to transform whatever we say, do and think from first person into second person... What we have to do is dedicate all that we do with our mind, lips and hands to Him who is seated in our hearts and in the hearts of all, and who is still beyond everything."

This is not something we need to practise at a later date. We can start from this very moment. How should we do this? When we chant Ram Nam, we should know that He is making us chant. This could be one method of attributing our thoughts, words and deeds to the second person instead of the first person. This is a full-time Sadhana prescribed by Pujya Mataji in a simple, humble manner.



BOOKSTALL: By the abundant grace of Beloved Papa, the Bookstall in the Ashram was extended and renovated; and the inauguration was done on the 7th of October, 2023. Here, Ashram Publications are available in various languages.



ANAND KUTIR: The opening of “Anand Kutir” at Ayodhya Vanam was done amidst the sonorous symphony of Ram Nam on the 23rd of October, 2023.

Anand Kutir will serve as a venue for periodic interactive sessions with students on value education and life skills.

So far, 21 camps were conducted in this academic year in which 981 students had participated. □





104TH JAYANTI OF PUJYA SWAMI SATCHIDANANDAJI

The 12th of November 2023 reminds us of Puja Swami Satchidanandaji's 104th Jayanti.

The very mention of Puja Swamiji's name brings to mind his gentleness, humility and all-loving nature. Everyone who was blessed to come under the sway of his love can emphatically state that they did know that Puja Swamiji had a special place in his heart for them.

On this joyous occasion, THE VISION offers its humble homage to Puja Swamiji and seeks his blessings on all to be able to love and serve all in the way that he did.



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

Love is the expression of God. To realise love is to realise God. God is all-pervading and is seated in the hearts of all beings, creatures and things. To love all is to be in tune with God, i.e., to become conscious of our perfect oneness with every form of manifestation in the universe.

— Swami Ramdas