

SRI SARVESHWARI TIMES

JULY 1999

I have always been yours
and will remain yours forever
Wherever you happen to be
I will remain your support

AUGHAR VANI, Avadhuta's Wisdom



Aghoreshwar
Baba Bhagwan Ramji

Words of Aghoreshwar

Since time immemorial the full moon of the month of July is dedicated to the Guru. In this issue we are printing some of Baba's precious reflections on the Guru and the sacred nature of Guru-disciple relationship.

In the spiritual context perhaps the most important figure in a person's spiritual life is his or her Guru. A Guru is the teacher par excellence, one who has himself tried and tested and succeeded in whatever he is imparting to his disciples. A truly enlightened Guru, therefore, is a rarity. That is why a Guru is like God in human form. If a disciple finds a truly enlightened Guru in his or her life, the only thing that keeps them from achieving spiritual success, then, is the firmness of their faith in their Guru. Baba understood this fact very well. And what is presented in the following pages is what he said about it.

I embrace you from my heart, all of you who are present here in the many forms of my own soul. May your heart and mind feel as good as mine does, as when the clarity of Divine vision awakens within a person.

O devotee! Above everything you will have to have faith in the careful words of your Guru. You have to believe in and see your Guru at a place much higher than the Gods of the trinity. This will be an expression of prudence.

Whichever work you want to be successful in, think of your Guru's expression, appearance and state while performing those actions in different times and situations. Pay attention to it, remember him, and bow to him with your life-force.

Scriptures bind us within limits and confuse us. They do not allow our thinking to roam freely in the realm of thoughts. They make it very limited. But the words of your Guru, even if they are not derived from the scriptures, are in keeping with necessities of the time, place and nation of your existence. Chopping away all your limiting ties he will make you reach salvation.

Nobody crosses the ocean of life to salvation without a Guru.

A Guru's mere company teaches the disciple by itself.

The only difference between a Guru and a disciple is that the Guru gets to know a little earlier and the disciple, a little later.

The Guru has the responsibility of imparting knowledge. But the responsibility of acting on that knowledge is that of the disciple.

Friends! One who is a real disciple of his Guru, like the real son of a father or mother, carries the influence, the features and color, ways of acting and behaving, ways of dressing, of his mother or father. Similarly, the disciples of a Guru become very much like him. They sit, stand, speak, explain, analyze, elaborate, understand, teach, become humble, become patient, like him. They do not have any bitterness in them.

Until one has full faith and belief in his guru, he cannot be successful in the knowledge imparted to him. This is very difficult to achieve in life. You can lose your faith by many kinds of treatment the guru metes out to you, or many kinds of humor he subjects you to. When you experience even the slightest disdain for your mantra, for your guru, for the divine being you worship, then that knowledge takes a very long time to be achieved. It becomes very difficult to be successful in. Then you cannot achieve it. It goes away.

Is the guru like Brahma, Vishnu or Mahesh?! No. In fact he provides light to all three of them. He is greater than the three of them. Because he is the one who takes you to them, makes you meet them, and gives you a position equal or higher than them.

Brahma, Vishnu and Shiva are not gurus. That you count them as one with your guru is a mistake. The fruits and flowers that you offer your guru are nothing but so much deadwood to him. The right offering for him is not flowers, but faith. And that faith is the flower of your heart. There, you do not need to spend either money or time. If you keep offering that, you will never find yourself lacking. You will never want for anything. You will be inexhaustible in wealth, inexhaustible in strength, inexhaustible in intellect and inexhaustible in esteem. It will never perish. Wherever you will go, my friend, you will find what you seek. A circle will grow within you.

A real guru is one on seeing whom pure thoughts and emotions rise in you, new ideas emerge in your heart, and self-purification is realized easily.

He is a guru on meeting whom you find peace in your soul.

The Sun (Sad-guru) carries light (disciples). But even light should lead to an experience of the Sun. Then only will the oneness of the Sun and light be for the benefit of the world.

If our guru is angry with us, is being indifferent to us, or is using harsh words towards us, then we should become attentive towards the causes for it. Behind this behavior of his exists only your welfare. He must be striving to protect you from possible troubles by chasing away your laziness, cowardice, worries and obstacles.

On going near your guru how far to sit from his seat, in which direction, and how to sit, how much to talk to him, when and how to present your curiosity and questions to him, all these things should be learnt.

Today you will find every kind of religious teacher. They speak about very nice things, just like drawing a map and describing things. The path that they show and sermonize about, however, have they walked on it? The right of showing the way should only be to that person who has walked on it because he knows about the ups and downs, good and bad, turns and pitfalls of the path. By walking on the path shown by such a person anyone can achieve success.

Persevere in one thing only. Do not be ensnared by many things. If you do that neither this nor that will be accomplished. Both will go away. This is known as deception with your guru.

On being favorable to our guru's mental state and remembering his expressions and state while performing various tasks profits us immensely in our own activities. There is no such thing as loss in this exercise.

With our intellect, heart and mind, deeds and words, and with our steadfast determination we should salute that boatman who has come to the bank with his boat to take us across the ocean of life, whether that be the last boat of our life, or a boat in the middle of our lives.

I embrace all of you with my heart and pray to that unknown, in whose lap and refuge I have grown, that new inspirations come to you in the new dawn. The unfinished and faulty task that you have, may you be successful in finishing it.

Closer to the Guru
Closer to the Self

Dr. Edoardo Beato

It is said that the human form is the most auspicious, if not the only one through which there are chances to obtain the highest and definitive spiritual accomplishment, Moksha, the liberation. Even the Gods and all the celestial beings, not to mention other forms of life, look at the human realm with aspiration, because they know its preciousness. In fact, to deserve a birth as a human is such a rare event that implies an enormous amount of previous merits. Yet, very few among the humans recognize this and try to reconnect their present situation within a wider frame of spiritual evolution. Some of these few struggle for reaching and enact in themselves the meaning of existence. But this turns to be such a huge task that they are forced to admit they need a very peculiar kind of help. So, they start searching for the ultimate guidance, a guidance that only one person can provide, the Guru.

Nonetheless, to search for a Guru is not the proper way to find him, since it is the Guru who manifests his presence. He only appears when the seeker is "ready." Once this most sacred relationship is established, one begins perceiving the taste of "coming home" by riding the only boat that can cross the ocean of myriad of existences. At this point of every spiritual adventure, it becomes clear that the Guru is the most essential, unavoidable presence in order to get the ultimate freedom. Meeting a Guru is both considered the completion of the individual's previous efforts, because he puts an end to the individual's attempts, wavering, confused wandering from one teaching to another in one's spiritual quest, and an act of grace that the Divine out of compassion bestows upon us. Therefore, the Guru, as the threshold to

the highest Self, is to be considered like the hub in which the merry-go-round of the surface mind, becomes one-pointed, established in his name and form.

The recognition of Guru's influence on our lives and the spontaneous sense of gratefulness deriving from it find a time and a place for their full expression in that celebration of fullness named Guru Purnima. The full moon of July becomes the visual symbol of the fullness of Guru's gifts. He imparts such a knowledge after which nothing else is needed anymore. Nothing is left to look for anywhere. The path becomes clear, without compromise. An entire tradition of enlightened being now supports the traveler.

So, for one day the fullness of Guru's knowledge and the fullness of his blessings, expression of the fullness of his unconditional love, become the only objects of joyful devotion to everyone who walks on the path. For one day puja, chants, meditation and every activity at the Ashram imbibe at the utmost extent that special fragrance of gratitude emanating from the hearts of devotees and well-wishers as well. Baba Aghoreshwar Bhagwan Ramji has been exerting a great positive influence on the world in the same way as does the sun. But just as a magnifying glass is needed to focus the rays of the sun in order for tinder to catch fire, so too his successors are now required to focus Aghoreshwar's virtuous conduct into a disciple's mind-stream and inspire him to follow the Aghor way of being. Thus as living examples representing Aghoreshwar Bhagwan Ramji, his Babas carry on the work of all the realized beings of the Aghor lineage, acting as an accessible focal point for the seekers to gain the state of Avadhoot.

Through devotion to our Guru, showing him respect and gratefulness, serving him and making offerings, we build up the proper disposition that will help us to become liberated from all our illusory, unworthy attachments. Guru Purnima is done not to benefit the Guru, but for our own sake. When we plant seeds in a field, it is not to benefit the earth. It is us ourselves who will harvest the crops. Therefore, with the appropriate devotional spirit towards our Guru we prepare ourselves to celebrate Guru Purnima full-hearted, in the awareness that the more positive intentions we exert in the Guru's direction, the closer we come towards him, towards the Self.

Ashram News and events

Up coming event: Guru purnima: Tuesday July 27th
(Full moon celebration dedicated to the Guru)

Each and every participant of the ashram is invited on this special day. If you are coming from out of town and need overnight accommodation please contact the ashram by telephone and let us know in advance. If you can volunteer for the day to help in the event it would be greatly appreciated. Please do let the ashram know in advance about your help. It is a perfect opportunity to come together and get to know the ashram brothers and sisters.

Program for the day: Tuesday July 27th
7:30 am to 8:00 am Flag raising
8:00 am to 9:00 am Guru puja, arati

9:00 am to 10:00 am Tea and snacks
10:00 am to 1:00 pm Chanting
Rest of the time is free to be with friends
6:00 pm to 7:30 pm Discourses
7:30 pm to 8:30 pm Evening arati
8:30 pm Light prasad

Find raiser garage sale: a success

A garage sale was held at the ashram on June 11 to raise funds for Samooh Relief Fund. Many local participants donated items for the garage sale and many came through out the day for the sale. A total of \$700.00 was raised through this event. We thank each and every person who helped and contributed for this fund raiser.

Board Meeting report:

Monthly meeting of the Board members of the ashram was held at the ashram on June 27th. Topics such as monthly yoga and meditation day, preparation for Guru Purnima event, hosting New Year's eve (Millennium eve) event at the ashram etc. were discussed. The need to remodel the multipurpose hall, adjacent kitchen and a six unit dorm were also discussed.

Devotional chanting and singing class:

Every Thursday from 6:00pm to 7:00pm chanting and voice classes are taught by Laura Bonazoli at the ashram. All are welcome.

Yoga, & Meditation day:

Every first Saturday of the month from 9:00 AM to 2:00 PM the Ashram is offering a day of Yoga, meditation, chanting and discourses. All are welcome. Participation is limited, please call in advance for enrollment.



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