

SATSANG

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Twice Monthly

RING OUT THE OLD -- RING IN THE NEW

Dear Fellow Traveller to the Kingdom of Heaven,

The year 1974 will be the year of decision. The Divine has willed and Thy Will be done. The Divine has willed that the energy cycle of the planet will be reset. Man has dug deep down into the bowels of the earth to extract liquid and solid gold. Blood is thicker than water, but oil is thicker than blood; and, hence, violence tars many parts of the globe. Man has polluted marine biology by dislodging his nuclear residue into the oceans. Noise pollution rings the decibels into the deafening ears. Automobile exhausts and the belching chimneys are the marauders that despoil the thin crust of atmosphere that surrounds the earth.

Useful atmosphere that surrounds our planet is a thin layer like lacquering on a wooden toy. Any tampering with it forebodes untold evil. We pay for it in terms of more cancer, leukemia, respiratory ailments and miscarriages. Atmosphere knows no frontiers and, hence, the pending doom has brought all the thinking people together. We survive together or perish en masse. No more can it be partly love and partly hate; it will have to be totally 'Love thy neighbor', without forgetting 'as thyself'.

At no time in known history were things as bad as they are today. Only a Divine messenger can lead us out of this chaos, and that is why The Son of Man has graced our planet by manifestation. He reiterates the message of Eternal Religion of the Vedas, which is given as the Fivefold Path. His message is 'Let Christian, Jew, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist be a more righteous Christian, Jew, Hindu, Muslim, Buddhist'.

Sufficient manhours have been spent in research about the effects of pollution on the human organism. Medicine knows that anything that affects the body also tends to affect the mind. The effect of pollution on the mind is devastating. Science has not yet devised enough parameters to gauge the damage to the mental mechanism. To do this, science will have to widen its universe of discourse and cognize that there are many superphysical realms that are beyond the electron microscope, the telescope or the scalpel of the surgeon. Mere enlargement of sense organs through such gadgets will not help us probe into the superphysical worlds of more grandeur and beauty. The effect of pollution on the mind could be seen in the quality of life we live, despite material enrichment. More of anxiety, tension, worry, alienation, broken families, psychiatry, mobility syndrome, greed, lust and insecurity. All this has to go, and it will go, since the Divine has willed it to be so.

When the intellect gets tied up in finding out more and more means for comfortable living through the broadening of sense avenues, it gives rise to technology. To search for the One among the many, the eternal among the ephemeral, is the function of human intellect. So long as the intellect is sense orientated, it will find further avenues for sense gratification, thus bringing more disturbance to the mind. Such intellect can not become subtle. When the intellect acquires subtlety, it points soulward. The subtler it becomes, the clearer becomes the perception. A new faculty dawns, it is intuition. It is called by various names; viz, PRAJNYA, nous, scientia, intuitiva, pure

reason. The saints who have experienced this state tell us that this mode of obtaining knowledge is more reliable and penetrating than observation through sense organs and inductive logic.

Only when the senses and intellect recede for awhile does the new faculty come into operation. What the intellect may not achieve by years of effort is grasped in a moment, as if by a flash. Then you realize that this knowledge is not acquired from outside, but it resides within you.

Vedas, the first revelation, was given at the time of creation. It describes, like the manual of a gadget, all things required to maintain creation in perfect harmony. It also states the Eternal principles of religion (SATYA DHARMA). The principles are valid till creation lasts and need no revision. It is not realistic to state that Almighty Father started caring for His children and gave the message of the Kingdom of Heaven only when Krishna, Buddha, Moses, Jesus, Zarathustra or Muhammad came to earth. The message was given at the time of creation. It was given through the first revelation, VEDAS, which literally means 'Knowledge'. "Before Abraham was, I am."

All the Divine messengers reiterate the same message, the same eternal principles of religion. These principles need no revision, even in the space age. They form the basis of the message of all the prophets. The Divine messengers speak the language suited to the times they incarnate. Their allotted task is to take us toward Self realization.

To suit modern conditions, the eternal principles are reiterated as the Fivefold Path. This is SATYA DHARMA (Eternal Religion). Purification of atmosphere is the first aspect of the Fivefold Path. Polluted atmosphere takes a heavy toll of the mind. Purification through the agency of fire is technically termed YAJNYA. The modus operandi is as follows. Induce change in the atmosphere; this leads to change in the PRANIC (life energy) content; this, in turn, has a beneficial effect on the mind. This is a great material aid. Your anxiety and tension are reduced. You feel more free to carry out your duties as a member of your community. Yajnya is a scientific aid to do away with factors that harass the mind. The need for resuscitation of this purificatory method was never more poignantly felt than it is today.

Yajnya was a complicated affair and involved strict disciplines. The grace of the AVATAR for the current dispensation, Parama Sadguru Shri. Gajanan Maharaj, the Son of Man (as described in His revelation) has revealed a condensed form of this purificatory method, which any householder can practice with tremendous benefit to himself. It is termed Agnihotra. It is the panacea for all your mental ills. It will cut down the heavy toll paid in terms of psychiatry and broken relationships. It costs you nothing to practice. It is yours for the asking. It is taught free. You are not required to join any group, sect or institution. You may stay where you are. Just start practicing the Fivefold Path and be a more righteous member of your community or religious group. It makes no difference if you are an agnostic or an atheist. This is Kriya Yoga.

Mahaveer was a great contemporary of Buddha, although the name is not widely known outside India. At the time of leaving the body, he stated, "The wheel of Dharma shall ~~not~~ ^{be reset} after twentyfive hundred years". Prophet Muhammad stated that a new messenger will come after fourteen hundred years. The period stated above is the period we live in today. The Divine has willed that the United States shall be the center from which it will spread all over. The messenger has already started unfolding the allotted task. From 1974, the unfoldment accelerates. There is the allotted time within which the task shall be completed. Hence, 1974 is the turning point which

heralds a new era, which will establish the Kingdom of Heaven. The task of the Avatar is always twofold; to destroy the wicked and to protect the devoted. All the holy people of the world will unite in this crusade. The scientist shall speak on behalf of Satya Dharma.

We live in the period of instant food, TV dinners, fortified cereals, homogenised milk and power packed vitamin pills. To suit the times, the Fivefold Path is also presented in a pill form, as a package deal. Start treading the Fivefold Path and protect yourselves from the catastrophes that the scientist says are in store for us. This refers to the papers submitted by scientists of many nations at the three meetings held under the auspices of the United Nations to study ecology. A new word has come into the language, 'ECOCIDE', which speaks for itself.

Almighty is one... His message is one. It is eternal. It is Kriya Yoga. It is the Fivefold Path. Let us divest ourselves of all superstition, all blinkers of dogma. May the ray of knowledge guide all our actions. Let discrimination be the key word in all our thoughts, words and deeds. Let us implement the Divine blueprint for our survival. Purification of the atmosphere is the patent need of the day.

Let us resolve to dot the surface of the earth with Fire Temples. Fire is the agency for purification of the atmosphere. This was the only mode of common worship in ancient times. Under the polluted conditions of today, its revival is a must. In this Temple, there shall be no idol. A copper firepot shall be the altar. Fire purifies the PRANA (Life energy) and, thus, the mind is benefitted. All your worries and alienation will wipe itself out when purified Prana affects the mind. Purification of mind is the first thing in any spiritual path. All the appearances of celestial beings in the Bible or through fire. 'Carnal mind is enmity against God' and this carnality is reduced by Pranik purification. Thus, you become a more righteous Christian, Jew, Muslim, Hindu, Buddhist or agnostic. Setting up of fire temples and practicing the scientific modes of atmospheric purification is the Divine blueprint.

Christopher Columbus discovered America for the rest of the world. Anyone who wishes to visit America, need not go through all the troubles and turmoil through which Columbus had to pass. Your path is already chartered. Follow the Fivefold Path. Let us resolve to dot the longitudes and the latitudes of our planet with Fire Temples, temples of purification. Let us ring in this new which is really the most ancient.

"I indeed baptize you with water into repentance, but he that cometh after me is mightier than I, whose shoes I am not worthy to bear; he shall baptize you with the Holy Ghost and with FIRE."

"Then cometh Jesus from Galilee to Jordan unto John to be baptized of him. But John forbade him saying 'I have need to be baptized of thee and comest thou to me?'"

"And Jesus answering said unto him, 'Suffer it to be so now.' For thus it becometh us to fulfil all righteousness".

(John 3 - 11, 13, 14, 15)

This is the Guru tradition which Jesus respected. Jesus put the highest message in simple words. "LOVE THY NEIGHBOR AS THYSELF". The coming year heralds the fulfilment of Jesus' mission. Kingdom of Heaven is coming.

Merry Christmas & Happy New Year

Yours
In His Service

Vasant

Satsang News

John Brown, Randallstown, Maryland writes:

"By the grace of the Master, I was instrumental in spreading Agnihotra to several people during the last few weeks. Some of them have started receiving Kriya Yoga instructions from Vasant at Agnihotra House, 7015 5th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20015. I explained the message of the Fivefold Path to a group of ten people. Eight out of these later came to my residence, and I showed them Agnihotra. Some have started regular practice of the same. In my talk I explained the contents of SATSANG #1 and #2. Enclosed is a list of persons who have been doing Agnihotra for more than a month."

Carol Spinoso, Jay and Ronnie taught Agnihotra to several people during the last six weeks. Most of these are new people who have not attended Satsang meetings before.

Ross and Fred Clifton from Baltimore have kept complete sets of SATSANG at various places in the city to enable people to read at their convenience. More than thirty people from among their friends have been practicing Agnihotra for the last two months.

Kriya Yoga Classes

Classes have commenced at Washington, D.C. to teach Kriya Yoga. There will be, initially, six sessions; once a week per group, five days a week.

Towson, Maryland

A meeting was arranged by Mrs. Lenore Lynch at the State College, Towson, Maryland. Vasant explained the contemporary relevance of the Fivefold Path of Eternal Religion. Elwood led the question and answer session that followed.

Vienna, Virginia

Mrs. Myers arranged a meeting at her residence at Vienna. Vasant gave a discourse on the Fivefold Path.

Philadelphia, Pennsylvania

A meeting was arranged at Yvonne's last week. Agnihotra was shown by Ronnie at sunset. Elwood taught the Agnihotra Mantra to new people. Vasant attended to personal interviews to several people. Sara Willborn suggested that it would be beneficial if a Fire Temple could be set up in the area. She has offered to shift to Washington, if her services could be more useful in the area.

Ronnie, Richard and Warren are staying at Agnihotra House, Washington, D.C. John Brown is acting as manager for the house and other proposed activities.

The printshop has been shifted to the basement of the house. Stuart has taught Ronnie regarding the printing operations.

The house was rented by Cary and the rent is paid out of pledges offered. Richard worked for nearly three weeks and has done a beautiful job panelling and giving a new look to the place. For two weekends, devotees came for a day and got the house ready to cope with the added work that we shall be required to do when 1974 is ushered in. The message of the Fivefold Path shall go round the world and people over here have an added responsibility to serve the needs of many countries. A team is being evolved which will be prepared to go when the call comes. The AVATAR is acting through many instruments. His Will be done.

The following worked for two weekends to clean, tidy up and furnish Agnihotra House, which is taken on a two year's lease. Cary, Royal, John and his wife Denise, Stuart and his wife Mary Jo, Barry, Victor, Tommy, Jimmy, Sid, Lisa, Mariam, Mary, Arnie, Sue, Warren, Henry, Harry, Bonnie, Larry, Eric, Ronald, Ronnie, Jay, Mike, David, Blair, Don, Dennis and his wife Denise. Carol Spinoso worked at the house and also arranged all meetings and Kriya Yoga classes. Vince peeped in for awhile. Doris worked and made all the curtains and other furnishings. Ronnie attends to all the visitors and related work. All the above are Agnihotris and the majority live beyond fifty miles from Washington. All furniture was provided by the above.

All the above was done under the personal supervision and guidance of Elwood. Elwood called a meeting in the first week of December, which was attended by all the above. He said, "The Avatar has willed that the allotted task shall be completed within the allotted time. We have to reach all parts of the United States and carry the message of purification through Agnihotra and

and the Fivefold Path. We have to give one pointed attention to this. Some of us may be required to leave our present location and spread to other areas. You might have heard or read about many things, but this is the last and supreme gift that anyone can get. Vasant's mission is our mission. therein lies our liberation. You will experience joy as never before. Fivefold Path is the only way out for our society. To achieve success, discipline is important. We will have to get rid of our old habits. This is Tapa and Swadhyaya. We must continue to be vegetarian always. What you eat, so you become. Spread Agnihotra all around. From America, we have to reach many other places. Agnihotra has to go to all corners of the globe. We need a lot of paper for handling the mailing we shall soon be involved in. We need a good office setup. Be careful that you do not take up Vasant's time more than is absolutely necessary. His day starts at four in the morning and lasts til midnight. So much work is yet to be done, and each one of us must train himself to take added responsibility. Then alone we shall be worthy of the prerogative granted to us to spread the message of Love, Devotion and Surrender."

Vasant stated, "By Divine Will, we will get all the resources required to carry on the work. So long as we plunge ourselves into it, nothing will be lacking. Avatars come only once in milleniums. They come only when things get too bad, and things were never as bad as today. The Divine has willed that Kingdom of Heaven shall come. The flow of Divine will get the work done. If X does not do it, Y will. If you give a little thought, you will realize that this is the biggest opportunity that anyone can get in a lifetime; to wipe out the burden of our past Karma so easily. Make the best of this opportunity. Give one pointed attention. Use discrimination in your thought, word and deed. Agnihotra will put you in the proper frame of mind to do it. We have no time to lose. Every day that passes takes up a chunk from your life. Is it not a wonderful feeling that one can achieve liberation while leading the life of a householder? It can be done. Just start taking the steps and the rest will take care of itself."

Parama Dham, Madison, Virginia

The first Kriya Yoga clas was held on December 15. Vasant stated, "Three resolutions we have to make today. These are not vows. Vows can not be broken. If you scrupulously attempt to follow these decisions, it may be the same thing as vows.

1. I shall not find fault with others.
2. I shall act according to the judgment pronounced by my power of discrimination.
3. I shall give one pointed attention to all my actions."

The subject matter of these talks will appear in Satsang in future issues. These form part of the practical crash training program in the Fivefold Path.

SAPTASHLOKI
(THE SEVEN VERSES)

Verse 2

Kim Satkarma kim adhyatmam
Yadi vijnyumarhati
Sarva shastreshu grantheshu
Pramanam paramam shrutih

किं सत्कर्म किमध्यात्मम्
यदि विज्ञातुमर्हति |
सर्व शस्त्रेषु ग्रन्थेषु
प्रमाणं परमं श्रुतिः ॥

Purport: What is good Karma? What is the science of the soul? If you really wish to know, Shruti (Vedas) is the standard reference.

COMMENTARY ON THE ABOVE BY VASANT: (Continued...)

Material enrichment afforded by technology does not seem to have improved the quality of life. Basically, material enrichment and spiritual development need not be mutually exclusive. It all depends on the attitudes of our mind. So long as there is no change in our attitudes, nothing is going to make us happy. The change in our attitude can come about when we are armed with knowledge. Mere learning is not knowledge. True knowledge imparts us the ability to take further steps in the direction of bliss. It is all inclusive. Knowledge is not mere opinion. Opinion is the end product of the intellect. True knowledge dawns with intuition, the higher faculty which arises when the mind is purified. In fact, only when intellect recedes, does true knowledge dawn. This is direct perception. This is possible only to the extent ego diminishes.

"The least among you is the greatest among the Kingdom of Heaven"

When the above is not sufficiently recognized, a person gets enmeshed in all sorts of pseudo occult, mistaking it for the spiritual path. This has been the fathomless pit wherein many an intellectual has ended his career. It seems many spiritual groups are mushrooming all over. Unfortunately, mere good intentions are not enough. The basic concept needs to be corrected. Hence, let us first note what is NOT the spiritual path. By the process of elimination, the ideas may be clarified.

Skill in the Yoga Asanas (physical postures), breathing and the Kriya techniques is not the spiritual path. To be able to direct the KUNDALINI in its upward route is not the spiritual path. To be able to walk on water or fire is not the spiritual path. The ability in the direction of clairvoyance or clairaudience is not the spiritual path. Telepathy, telemetry is not the spiritual path. To be able to stay buried underground for days together is not the spiritual path. To influence solids to bend by thought projection is not the spiritual path. To drink a bottle of acid without any apparent effect is not the spiritual path. To be able to turn mercury into gold, water into milk is not the spiritual path.

To give syllogistically sound lengthy discourses on Almighty universe, love, consciousness is not the spiritual path. To deliver sermons or to listen to sermons on the Vedas, Bible, Bhagavatgeeta, Dhammapada, Quran is not the spiritual path. To recite daily excerpts from the books written by saints, seers or philosophers is not the spiritual path. To don the ochre robes of a

Swami, a monk is not the spiritual path. To bring oneself around a cluster of disciples is not the spiritual path. To attend regularly the places of worship is not the spiritual path. To visit periodically the places of pilgrimages is not the spiritual path. To be able to exorcise devils is not the spiritual path. To be able to heal people is not the spiritual path. To be able to read people's minds is not the spiritual path. To prophesy is not the spiritual path. To go into ecstasy while chanting mantras or reciting psalms is not the spiritual path. To see visions is not the spiritual path. To lead a scrupulously ethical life is not the spiritual path. To sacrifice your wealth in the service of the poor is not the spiritual path. To arrange celebrations on Christmas, Krishna's birthday or Buddha's day of enlightenment (Modhi) is not the spiritual path. To promote institutions to teach Yoga, meditation is not the spiritual path.

It is strange but true that all the above is not the spiritual path. It is hard to learn that leading an ethical life, sacrificing wealth in the service of the poor, practicing Yoga, reading scriptures and some other things mentioned above are not the spiritual path. Certainly, some of these can form and do become means of spiritual practice; but there is an important rider attached to it. When you practice any of the above divorced from the basic concept of the science of the soul, they can never become the spiritual path. When you have the right knowledge and the right guidance of a Guru, your driving your auto to work, your taking the baby to the babysitter, your cooking food for the family, your work in the office or factory become the spiritual path. This leads us to an important field of inquiry. What is the spiritual path? Consider all the above in the light of what one Indian Saint stated, "Service divided by ego is equal to devotion".

Remember what Jesus said in the Sermon on the Mount,

"Not everyone that sayeth unto me Lord, Lord, shall enter into the Kingdom of Heaven; but he that doeth the will of my Father which is in heaven.

Many will say to me in that day, Lord, Lord, have we not prophesied in thy name? And in thy name cast out devils? And in thy name done many wonderful works?

And then will I profess unto them, I never knew you, depart from me ye that work iniquity.

There whosoever heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them, I will liken him unto a wise man, which built his house upon a rock; and the rain descended and the floods came and the winds blew and beat upon that house; it fell not -- for it was founded upon a rock.

And everyone that heareth these sayings of mine and doeth them not shall be likened unto a foolish man which built his house upon the sand; and the rains descended and the floods came and the wind blew and beat upon that house; and it fell; and great was the fall of it."

(Matthew 7-21,22,23,24,25,26,27)

Soul vision is the aim of human existence. When this aspect is missing, none of the above mentioned things can constitute the spiritual path. None of the above can lead toward Self realization. Remember, we are not interested in paradise. To enter "the Kingdom of Heaven which is within you" is the aim of Eternal Religion given through the first revelation, Vedas. This is SA'YA DHARMA, which means Eternal Religion. It is the FIVEFOLD PATH. Self Study is the fifth aspect of the Fivefold Path. Kingdom of Bliss is not a kingdom in space; it is an unfoldment from within. We have the wherewithal to cognize it.

The spiritual path is simply 'Love thy neighbor as thyself'. This is the central theme of all the Divine messengers. Love and surrender are the alpha and the omega, the beginning and the end of the spiritual path. Love and surrender form the warp and the woof of the spiritual path. This leads to soul vision and all doubts disappear.

"Knowing which nothing remains to be known."

"All the doubts are resolved"

(Mundakopanishad)

Vedas deal with the subject of Satkarma and the Science of the soul in all its aspects. This is the spiritual path. Vedas which were revealed at the time of creation are the standard reference in all such matters.

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