

SRI SARVESHWARI TIMES

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We can never say exactly how and where and in what form the Divine Mother will bestow her grace on us, how she will reveal different things to us.



~Wisdom of Aghoreshwar Bhagwan Ram~

On a recent Sunday morning, Babaji addressed a group gathered at the Ashram in Sonoma with the following:

PILGRIMAGE ON THE GANGA

I was thinking about a time when I was in India this morning. I had just gone to see Baba for the first time after being with him in New York.

One day when I was just sitting and checking in, Baba said, "Oh, it has been so long since I walked on the bank of the Ganga. When I was a young man, I walked from Benares all the way to Vindhyaachal."

This thought came to my mind. "Well, I have nothing to do. I will walk." My guru didn't tell me, "Go, walk." He mentioned something, and someone who was there to listen, listened and heard.

I chose to take on that pilgrimage as Baba had done - barefoot, just with a blanket. Another young man who had also just left everything and had gone back to India joined me. It was a two- or three-night journey.

It is common in India for the people living in the villages along the river to offer water or food to people on pilgrimage who might pass by. One day on our journey, we became thirsty and walked up to a nearby village seeking water.

We came across an old woman working in her fields cutting sugar cane and asked her where could we find some water. She didn't respond to our question – instead she pulled out a little bundle of fabric that was tied into her sari. She opened it up, and inside there was a crumpled up two-rupee bill. She offered it to me, saying, "This is all I have."

I was hesitant to take it from her, but something inside said, "No – take this offering from her." Later she motioned for us to walk towards the village. She followed us, brought us to her house, and gave us some water to drink.

Much later, I realized that it was a moment where I experienced the presence of the Divine Mother.

I still have that two-rupee bill.

There are so many names for the Divine Mother, like the ones we sing Kali, Chandi, Tara, Durga. But in our daily life, when moments like what I experienced appear to us, are we present enough to recognize the presence of the Divine? Unless we are able to see that, all the prayers and worship that we do keeps us in delusion.

Being able to see the presence of the Divine in our daily life is the work. We cannot see that Divine Presence unless we are present ourselves. Somebody has to be home. Divinity is always knocking at our door, but often nobody is home. We are too busy looking for it somewhere else, in something else.

The Divine Mother doesn't come riding on a tiger wielding 24 weapons. She's right here, within us, amongst us. She can choose any one of our bodies to manifest. Think about that. She's beyond form. That presence, the Divine Presence, is beyond form. It can take any form and make it the medium for its manifestation.

It doesn't really matter whether you know any mantras or whether you do any prayers. It helps, but what really matters is, "Am I able to see the Divine Presence in my life?"

For instance, imagine that you are stranded somewhere, you've run out of gas in the middle of the freeway. Somebody stops to help. The person even drives you to the gas station and brings you back to your car. What do you see in that moment? The heart of a devotee will see the presence of the Divine Mother.

This is how we build our devotion. To see the Divine in what seems like ordinary things.

You are not fooling yourself. You are seeing beyond what is on the surface - you are seeing what's in the root. It's the Divine that's entering that person. That inspiration is a divine moment; that action is a divine action.

We can all be that instrument of the Divine too. The heart of a devotee will always say, "I'm just an instrument. I'm just an instrument to God's work." Action is the same regardless of how we interpret it. Either I put myself in the first, and think - I'm the doer or we think - I'm just the instrument.

Try to see the Divine in little ordinary actions of daily life. Don't say, "Oh, Babaji, I'm not enlightened yet. Once I am enlightened, then I'll really get it." No. Get it now. Get it today. Try to see the divine hand in every gift that comes your way, in every smile that comes your way. It requires training the mind a little bit. This is spiritual work - training the mind to see in this way.

A devotee's dharma is to see, not judge, and to accept fully. The day that happens, you'll become a saint!

Keep working. Even out of thirty, fifty, a hundred things that happen in the day, if you can be present and open to see the Divine in one moment, some real work will begin to happen within you. You are not fooling yourself - you are training yourself. You are learning, you are growing. When we begin to look at our life that way, to see the Divine in our day to day life, we are not a victim of circumstance. We are able to learn from every experience.

Spiritual practice is not only in our mind – it's in connecting what we see in our daily life. Our life becomes filled with divine moments. All the help comes to us. We just have to prepare ourselves to receive.



Upcoming Events at the Ashram!

March 9th - 9:00 am - 3:00 pm

True Connection

with Shannon Kelly

March 16th - 8:15 am - 4:00 pm

Ayurveda Immersion

with Dr. Helen Thomas

April 5th to April 13th – Spring Navaratri



Ashram's Daily Schedule

Monday - Friday

6:15 am - Meditation

9:00 am - Morning Reading

6:00 pm - Meditation

*Thursdays: 5:00 pm Guided Meditation in Spanish

Saturday

8:00 am Meditation

8:30 am Morning Reading

6:00 pm Meditation

Sunday

10:00 am Meditation

10:40 am Babaji's Satsang

6:00 pm Meditation