

# **Be Ye Peaceful Vol II**



**Parama Premamoy Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra's  
120<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary**

**and**

**4th National Satsang Utsav**

**Dallas, Texas  
USA**

**August 30<sup>th</sup> & 31<sup>st</sup> , 2008  
Satsang USA**

## **Pujyapada Sree Sree Dada's Ashirwani**

*“Being devoted to the Love-Lord—who leads all of us to peace, prosperity, fellow-feeling and harmonious co-existence in a way which is most propitious and profitable to all of us following our being committed to materialize all the wishes of our Lord, is the only way by which we can attain total perfection.*

*Love is not something which can be given equitably to every person, but when we love someone who fulfils each and everyone with absolute totality, our love for Him, our Love-Lord, bestows us the power of loving everyone properly. Loving Thakur and following all His commands is the truest way of attaining salvation.*

*I fervently pray that each of you attain true bliss by making Him the guiding star of your life. I am praying that your congregation brings happiness to you all.”*

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## **Acknowledgements**

We are fortunate to have the pleasure of celebrating the 120<sup>TH</sup> Birth Anniversary Of Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra and 4<sup>th</sup> National Satsang, USA in Dallas, Texas this year (2008) We had been blessed by Pujoniyo Babai da to hold the celebrations at this place.

We are extremely grateful to Shrodheyo Asis-da for spearheading the celebrations. We are thankful to all Satsangees and non Satsangees for their co-operation and best wishes to make this celebration a grand success.

We would like to thank Asis -da, Kerry-da, Gisela-Ma, Sarbeshwar Doley-da, Vidya Joshi-Ma, Preeti-Ma and Raj-da, Chandrasekhar-da for their articles in the souvenir.

We would also like to thank Anurodh-da of Lucknow for compiling the souvenir.

Lastly, we would like to thank the advertisers for their contribution to the souvenir.

Thank you all,

Bande Purushottamam

The Texas team

## Foreword

Here is **Be Ye Peaceful Volume II** published for the occasion of commemorating ParamaPremamaya Sree Sree Thakur AnukulChandra's Holy 120<sup>th</sup> Birth Anniversary as well as Fourth National Satsang Utsav, US to be commemorated in Dallas, TX on August 30-31, 2008.

We are delighted to have the enthusiasm that we are going in with. It is remarkable that although we have been faced with so many challenges, Sree Sree Thakur's mission of universal love, mutual respect and inter-interestedness is growing exponentially among and around us.

It is not hard to comprehend that Prophan AcharyaDeva Sree Sree Dada is enabling and fulfilling each of us according to our characteristics and needs the same way Parama Purush Parama Dayal used to, acting as **VaisishtyaPalee** and **Apuryamaan** (The nurturer of the inner characteristics and Fulfiller the Best).

The chariot of Satsang USA and Sree Sree Thakur's mission remains extremely motile and momentous. Should we maintain the basic tenets of Sree Sree Thakur's **Panchaniti** (Five Principles) of **Jajan** (Practice of Naam and meditational resources), **Jaajan** (Proliferation of these pious principles by active service in the community and beyond), **IshtaVrity** (Active and real Daily material offering to Sree Sree Thakur), **Swastyani** (Five special Principles of good existence), and **Sadachar** (Hygienic principles), we will continue to be blessed by **ParamPita** (Supreme Father).

### **Bande Purushottamam!**

Asis Basu, SPR  
Dallas, TX.  
August 30, 2008

## Excerpt from “Magna Dicta”

"God is one,  
Dharma is one,  
prophets are same, -  
servers of the One;  
conflict and animosity with any of them  
proclaims the presence of opposite - the Satan.  
Surrender to the Supreme is the sauce  
that brings heaven down  
to the soul and service:  
Do love, do serve, do surrender,  
do ever for Providence ,  
the Lord, the Ideal, the source of all sources,  
with every inter-interested serving zeal  
that serves the Ideal -  
Fulfiller the best of the past and present  
Whose presence is to fulfill not to destroy!  
Utter and act with every enthusiasm,  
Surrender to the  
One and only!  
Surrender to the enlightened Seers  
that are fulfillers of the past,  
Surrender to the Fathers that  
follow the right Way,  
Surrender to Varnasram that  
evolves out of Providence ,  
Surrender to the all-fulfilling  
Fulfiller of the present,  
This is the Aryan path,  
This is Dharma  
that upholds existence,  
This is the eternal truth  
that all are  
to surrender to!

## Excerpt from “Satyanusaran”

The stay of all existence is Dharma, and He is the Supreme Fulfiller.

**Dharma never becomes many.** It is always one. There is no variety of it.

Views may be many – even as many as there are people. Still, Dharma cannot be many.

In my opinion, to speak of Hindu Dharma, Christian Dharma, Mohammedan Dharma, Buddhist Dharma, etc. is wrong; rather, they are so many views.

In fact, there is no opposition in the views – different views, the same way – feeling One in many forms.

Each faith is for the expansion of avowed activity. That can be in many forms and as much as is gained by the expansion, so much the realization – wisdom. So Dharma is based upon realization – to be ‘real’ in nature.

जिस पर सबकुछ आधारित है वही है धर्म, और वे ही हैं परम पुरुष ।

धर्म कभी अनेक नहीं होता, धर्म एक है और उसका कोई प्रकार नहीं ।

मत अनेक हो सकते हैं, यहाँ तक कि जितने मनुष्य हैं उतने मत हो सकते हैं, किन्तु इससे धर्म अनेक नहीं हो सकता ।

मेरे विचार से हिन्दू धर्म, मुसलमान धर्म, ईसाई धर्म, बौद्ध धर्म इत्यादि बातें भूल हैं बल्कि वे सभी मत हैं ।

किसी भी मत के साथ किसी मत का प्रकृत रूप में कोई विरोध नहीं, भाव की विभिन्नता, प्रकार-भेद हैं- एक का ही नाना प्रकार से एक ही तरह का अनुभव है ।

सभी मत ही हैं साधना विस्तार के लिये, पर वे अनेक प्रकार के हो सकते हैं, और जितने विस्तार में जो होता है वही है अनुभूति, ज्ञान । इसीलिये धर्म है अनुभूति पर ।

## Truth in Two Words

Kerry Brace

Once when Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra was asked to express His teaching as briefly as possible, he answered in two words: “Be concentric.” The Webster definition of concentric is “having a common center” and the Latin root means “with center”. The answer does not specify on what or whom to center: but if one were to ask what the center of everything is, the answer would likely be the one Source that everything has in common. In the human realm there is a choice of possible centers on which to base one’s way of living. I think that the crucial point of the Lord’s answer is that this choice mainly determines how life will be for the individual and the collective.

Many people make an addictive substance or activity the center of life, with extremely painful consequences for self and others. Many people make spouse or family the most important factor of life and find their meaning in that. The Centering that Sri Sri Thakur recommends throughout his teachings is on the Living Ideal, the Purushottam or Supremely Fulfilling Person.

What would it mean to make life concentric to Him? As I see it this involves conditions that most of us only hope to approach to some degree: 1) to let Him be the focal point of all experiences and activities, felt as present within them, appreciated as one with their common Source, loved both in Him and appreciated in everything. 2) So far as activity is purposeful, to let the purpose be somehow to serve him. This can be directly, as in material offering to Him, or in doing something to enhance any being’s life or alleviate any being’s suffering, because He lives in all. We may recall how welts appeared on His body when He saw a horse whipped. Another illustrative instance: a person at one side told him of a happy circumstance: a person on the other side told him of something painful. An observer who could see both sides of His face noticed that it was divided into opposite emotional expression, one side joyful and the other in anguish. Such examples of the Lord’s compassionate identification with others of course could be multiplied. So it is clear that in doing for any being, we can be doing for the Ideal, the person who is identified with the life force common to all. As Jesus said, “In as much as you have done it is to the least of these, you have done it to me.”

The essential practices taught by Sri Sri Thakur provide the way to grow in Centering. Istabhrrity: beginning each day with an offering to Him is an action through which we give ourselves the message that He is most important to us. Jaajen: doing something specifically for uplifting the existence of others or another, for His sake, allows us to feel our actions are meaningful for what is most important to us. Especially communicating about Him to others seems to deepen or strengthen our own ability to recognize His place within ourselves. Jajen: self-development for His sake. The practice of meditation with the Holy Name allows us to open ourselves to the sense of His presence within and without. With the possibility of the continual remembrance of the Name comes the possibility that any and every moment of our existence can be connected to Him or include awareness of Him, because He is one with the Name at the spiritual level of existence(Naam, Naami, Abhed)

There are probably as many ways and degrees of centering as there are people. In our Prodhan Acharya we have the exemplar of perfect mastery in doing so. It is also probably beyond us to fully understand the ways in which this centering benefits us. Some of the ways may be:

1) Without the center our various passions and desires pull in different directions and often undermine or thwart one another, but with this center they support one another for growth in truth.

2) There is an opportunity to experience life with its divine essence that opens through centering on one who is identified with the life force. On the other hand with some other center, this opportunity would be missed. Someone may become a millionaire by making money his center, but as Jesus put it “what does it profit to gain the world and lose one’s soul?”

3) Because the one on whom we center is one with the Source as well as the manifestation, the Being and Becoming, we can access a state of peacefulness even in the midst of anxiety-ridden conditions of the world.

4) Because the one on whom we center is identified with the unimaginable power that manifests the universe, there is an infusion of energy in the opening of consciousness to Him, which can be healing or otherwise very good for life.

For one example, I heard a story from Late David Lichtgarn, about a devotee, Boikuntha Singh, whom I was privileged to meet at Deoghar Ashram many years ago. In his earlier life Sri Singh had some serious illness as a result of which he was paralyzed. Once when he was in Sri Sri Thakur’s presence he heard the Lord speaking with a man who worked as an engineer or some similar profession. The Lord said something to this effect: “What happens to a small piece of metal when it is welded to a big one? It goes where the big one goes. Get yourself welded!” On hearing this, Sri Singh had some feeling or experience such that he realized that his paralysis was cured. However he did not demonstrate this at that moment, but had himself carried out. (My guess is that because of his attunement, he knew that the Lord would prefer this.) Thereafter he was able to walk.

5) In so far as one could make the Ideal more important than oneself, one would be freed of the distortion of perception and understanding that happens because of ego or selfish interest. This would allow one to blunder less.

With all the knowledge and various versions of wisdom available to us and the rest of the humanity, with exponential multiplication of choices and diversions of the present day world, how very helpful it is to have a clear focus on what is the most important for life and growth. Being directed to the highest center is a gift worthy of highest gratitude.



## **A DISCOURSE WITH SHREE SHREE THAKUR ANUKUL CHANDRA**

Shri Sarbeswar Doley, SPR

(The following is a discourse with Shree Shree Thakur Anukul Chandra, the founder of Satsang. In the sixties, Shri Sarbeswar Doley, SPR was serving in Bhutan, the Himalayan Kingdom as the Director of Forest later Adviser to the Govt of Bhutan in Forestry. Through him, the then Maharaja of Bhutan, Late Jigme Dorji father of the present King came to learn about life and teachings of Shree Shree Thakur. The king was greatly enamoured of our Beloved Ideal.)

Venue: Thakur Bari, Satsang Ashram, Deoghar, Bihar, India on June 20, 1965 at 4-30 p.m. In the Parlour, Shree Shree Thakur was sitting on the bed that was covered as always with a milky white sheet. A few devotees and others were sitting in front of Him. One by one people came, bowed down to Him, made offerings and then sat down. He reciprocated each one with His usual graceful gesture with joined palms, bowed to Supreme Father, wishing every one's well-being.

After offering salutation with deep regards to Shree Shree Thakur, Shri Sarbeswar Doley, a devoted disciple, in a soft voice said - King of Bhutan wishes to know from you, what he should do to get well-being.

In a pleasing mood Shree Shree Thakur said - One aspect is there. It is called to be Sincere Adherence to the Ideal. Deeper the sincerity better is the well-being for him. Again, King's sincere adherence to the Ideal will flow to his Ryots (subjects). His subjects are like his children. On knowing King's sincerity to the Ideal, subjects will be interested in the king. They also will be sincere for the Ideal. Thereby, integration will grow.

The king also needs to look after his subjects. If a man has ten children, he takes care of them with deep affection. Similarly, the king also takes care of his subjects like an affectionate father. Another important aspect is that the king needs to pay attention to the well being of other kings in the neighborhood too. He should see that they enjoy goodness without fail.

The king is like an exemplar who can take care and promote life and growth of his own subjects along with those of neighbours at one and same stroke. King's revenue is earned from his subjects. They are his helpers and the source of treasures. Ignoring the needs of his subjects and by neglecting their amenities, king can neither enjoy nor live in peace.

Listening with rapt attention, Sri Sarbeswar Doley said – “The King wishes to know whom he should worship to get welfare and all good?”.

All merciful Shree Shree Thakur said tenderly - Actual matter is sincere adherence to the Ideal- Master. King's sincerity should be strong and solid. When he achieves accomplished sincerity to Beloved Ideal, his subjects will stand beside him. Due to

this, the subjects develop uncompromising allegiance and obedience to the sincere king.

Likewise that you are a Ritwik (a person authorized to give 'diksha', Holy initiation) for Beloved Ideal's interest and work. Ritwik is the humblest servant of Lord with adherence, allegiance and active service. Your conduct and behaviour should be good and above-board so that your oblates can emulate them. King is also a Ritwik of existence (Swatta- Rwitik). King is the guardian of life and property of public. He should make life and growth of every one propitious and progressive. In brief, it is all about king.

His prime objective is to love the Beloved Ideal. With the expansion of consciousness that comes through devotion, that indicates what is to be done for their lives. As for example, a man may have five sons, one may be suffering from disease and the others need attention for different causes. Loving father will do everything needed for each one of his sons and make them happy and healthy. The king's duty is also similar. King has to discern with conscientious consideration, aptness and skilful conduct for uplifting the living conditions of his subjects.

With humble submission, Shri Sarbeswar Doley said – Would you be kind enough to give a message of blessings for the king of Bhutan?

Benign Lord Shree Shree Thakur with enliven smile and affectionate look said - I am a foolish man, understanding nothing. After a pause He said again - King should develop a personal rapport with his subjects. Stronger the rapport, deeper will be the feeling for each other and better will be the attachment. So is the case in relationship between a devotee and the God. For worshipping God, a devotee needs to have active service and loving attachment to Him. The character and conduct of a king should be such that in no way it will lower the dignity of his subjects.

Similarly, this is applicable to you (Rwitik) too. You should have good rapport with your oblates (persons whom he gives diksha). Power alone cannot achieve everything if love and compassion is not there. Man should love and serve God – the Providence, for his self-complacence and feel transcendental thrill in his heart. On resisting evils, he can enjoy valorous love-power.

Shri Ajit Dhar a dedicated disciple of Shree Shree Thakur said - The king of Bhutan was very pleased to learn that Sarbeswar da had started holy initiation (diksha) to people in Bhutan”.

Shree Shree Thakur said in a cheerful voice - It means people long for good. No one likes evil doers. He who goes against other's well being is a Satan. Well- being means when satisfaction flows and peace prevails. After a short gap Sree Sree Thakur said again – therefore, listen- the king is there as long as the subjects are there. If at all, it is necessary to punish a guilty person, imprisonment in jail is not the only answer. Instead of jail, a Character Reforming School is necessary. Punishment should be such that it reforms the person and make him a better human being. I like

the name - Character Reforming School. The king's goodwill towards them will be spread through these Character Reforming Schools. As and when your oblates understand and consider you (Rwitik) as their best and dear friend, they will have full faith in you. Similarly, if the king treats his subjects dearly, they will also have faith in the king.

Shri Sarbeswar Doley said again – The king also thinks of the present day Gurus.

Shree Shree Thakur said – Whatever might be his thoughts, whenever you are with the king, your conduct and behaviour should be such that he should feel elated in your company. A weak-minded person does not have consistency in love and attachment. But the king who is aware of the needs his people, has consistency in love and attachment.

It is applicable to you (Rwitik) too. If you are not concerned for your oblates, they will have no satisfaction. Like the king, the Rwitiks should also have good conduct and unblemished character.

You love your Love-Lord with every constant continuation, serve Him and culture His attributes accordingly. This will also touch them and conjoin with others. With loving character, a Rwitik is considered as king of kings. The king is always respectable. However, a Rwitik is like a Fakir-King. Protector and propitiator king with every skilful attitude and alertness considers the subjects as assets. With inner propensity for Love-Lord, he may be like a Fakir in the name of king. As told earlier, the neighbouring kingdoms should be served with compassionate attitude so that they remain happy. However, when they are influenced by evil thoughts and deeds, they should be treated with judicious consideration to change their evil attitude.

Intellect, Discretion and Love - these three virtues should be active and remain awakened in you. With these, you can clear up all dirt and evil-imparting propensities. In addition, you can grow the tendencies of adherence and allegiance with active energetic-urge to serve your Love-Lord. You can keep proper watch against inconsiderate ill-fated mistakes that may creep in. You do not discard any queer idea with attentive inquisitiveness to see possibilities of normal aptitude of success. You are to be attentive and understand what is needful to achieve efficiency, so that your resource of mental power is not disturbed.

With inquisitiveness and respect Sri Sarbeswar Doley asked –“What do you think about the future of Bhutan Kingdom?”

With his confirmed voice Shree Shree Thakur told –“This is the excellent path and clear road to success for the future”.

Shri Sarbeswar Doley enquired – “Does it mean the future of Bhutan will prosper with this?”

Shree Shree Thakur assured - It is so. After a pause, He said again - You live well, be happy and get warm felicitations on your success. This is my wish. The king also

wishes the same for his subjects. If subjects are not well and happy, the king also cannot live well.

If you are selfish and not concerned for your oblates, similarly if the king is not concerned for his subjects even acquiring crores and crores of wealth may be of no use. On the other hand, when they are propitious and progressive they will provide everything you need.

Look at the Kauravas – they were so mighty and powerful yet they could not stand before the Pandava’s king Yudhisthira. They were destroyed.

Not able to resist his inquisitiveness Sri Sarbeswar Doley asked - Is unregulated complex of man is the cause of sorrow?

Out of His compassion, Shree Shree Thakur said - Cause of sorrow is due to inconsistency in love and attachment. No body is concerned for you, no body is concerned for him and no body is concerned for others. As a result, there is no integration. There is only diversity. What can money do? It can only buy food, clothes and shelter. But it cannot meet the needs of the heart. It is possible with love and compassion alone. Your unflinching devotion to Supreme Lord also needs love and passion.

You can acquire love by unrepelling devout adherence with active culture and fulfillment of His Commandments. Love is expressed in two ways – Hearty -urge and activity with revering zeal. A father expresses his love for his children through these two ways.

Further Shri Sarbeswar Doley asked – “Is it possible to remove sorrow without regulating our complexes?”

Shree Shree Thakur said – If you are determined to tread in the path to Love-Lord and you do not entertain the wrong thoughts that come to your mind, the wrong thoughts will fade away on their own.

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## **REMINISCENCES ABOUT HOW WE CAME TO SRI SRI THAKUR AND SOME EXPERIENCES WITH SRI SRI BORDA AND SRI SRI DADA**

Gisela Lichtgarn

In 1969 we had just gotten married and wanted a copy of *The Pursuit of Truth* to go with us on our trip to Germany and Greece. Neil Selden, a staff member of Encounter, a drug rehabilitation program for ex-addicts in downtown Manhattan, carried a copy of *The Pursuit of Truth* in his shirt pocket at all times. When we asked him if we could take it with us, he refused. It had saved his life, he said. He and his wife had gotten divorced but eventually remarried because of Thakur's emphasis on love.

Neil also spoke up a number of times, when former addicts in the program would go back on drugs and would eventually be kicked out of the program. He would say, "But I know someone who would NEVER kick anybody out! And His name is Thakur!" In this way he would talk and fuel our admiration for this man called Thakur. Eventually we persuaded him to part with *The Pursuit of Truth* for 2 weeks. My late husband, David, copied the entire *Satyanusaran* by hand into a loose-leaf notebook. This we took with us to Germany where we visited my parents, then Italy and eventually Greece. It gave us a tremendous focus and helped us through various hurdles and every-day life adversity! We became very much attached to it, the simple language, and cause and effect of our actions, and how we can improve and grow.

When we got home in the fall of 1969 I copied *The Pursuit of Truth* by typing it up with my old and trusty 1949 Remington typewriter! I typed about 5 or 6 copies and mailed them off to friends, enjoying the typing of these centering, lofty words and the raised consciousness that came about in the process.

In the winter of '69/'70 we called up our old friend Neil Selden and wanted to know if he knew of any meditation or teacher. He said that 2 disciples of Thakur had just arrived and if we wanted to meet them. We met them in a vegetarian restaurant in the Village, in downtown Manhattan. After everyone went home, there were just four of us left: Ray Hauserman, Edmund Spencer, David and I. We walked all the way home to our apartment with them, a 45 minute walk. Then we spent the rest of the night talking about Sri Sri Thakur. The next day I took initiation and David did a few days later!

From then on until we left for India we spent all our time in the company of Ray and Spence, as we called them. Ray, age 48, had spent 25 years with Thakur. He was chunky with black eyes and talked constantly, gesticulating vigorously with both arms, while Spence was tall and lean, with blue eyes, white hair and beard! He remained silent most of the time, had gone to Rutgers University and received a Masters from Harvard. The two were quite a contrast! But the credit goes to Spence for bringing Ray to Thakur!

We would meet almost daily with them and have lunch at an upper Westside apartment of another Satsangi, a young American by the name of Bob Cumming who had gone to Oxford! Bob had met Thakur, and again the person we would talk about the most would be Sri Sri Thakur!

After a few months we became determined to go to India and meet the person who had known Thakur and materialized His teachings the most. We tried to figure out our finances and were lacking \$900.00.

A bank letter had been arriving at various times about a bank account in Ohio where I had gone to school, but we had never checked it out. At last my usually mild-mannered husband threatened he would check it out himself, if I did not! After writing them a letter, they closed my account and included a check for \$ 900.00! The Lord had answered our prayer!

On the way to India we had taken the Orient Express from Paris to Istanbul and from there to the border of Iran by bus, a trip taking about 2 strenuous days of travel. All passengers had gotten permission to enter Iran, ———except us! We were wondering why. Back in the States we had asked a Satsangi friend about visas to Iran and he had told us we did not need one! He was French, and it turned out French citizens did not need a visa, but Americans did! We were told we would have to return to Istanbul to get our visas! Dumbfounded I began to weep. When the Iranian official saw me weeping he wanted to know the reason. Eventually, by the merciful intervention of the Lord, he gave us permission to enter Iran without having a visa! There had been a friendly man on the bus that we had talked to about Thakur. It turned out that he was the Head of Customs and, liking us, had also put a good word in for us with the Iranian official! In this way, by His grace, we were able to take our pre-booked flight from Teheran to Delhi! I will never forget the early morning when we arrived at the Delhi airport! The sun was rising bright pink and red while sublime Indian ragas were playing over the intercom!

We arrived in the ashram in May and it was the beginning of a new life for us!

As soon as possible we wanted to meet with Sri Sri Borda, who, we understood, was Sri Sri Thakur's successor. David tried to figure out the meaning of "Living Ideal". He asked Borda, since Thakur placed so much emphasis on the Living Ideal, who was the living ideal NOW?

Sri Sri Borda remained silent. But David, who usually was not that persistent, kept persisting and asking repeatedly. This went on about 2 or 3 times. At last Sri Sri Borda replied, "You may take me as the Living Ideal, but always remember, that Sri Sri Thakur is the Living Ideal!" This was a non-linear answer to a very important question! We were to keep this in mind for a long time!

From the very beginning I sensed an attraction to Borda that was very strong. I will speak of my relationship alone, as David had his own special relationship with him. In some ways I felt I had finally come home. I had been tossed about from one culture to

another. Having been born and raised in Berlin, Germany and then migrated to the US as a teenager, I had spent some very good, fruitful and fulfilling years in the home of 2 kind and generous doctors: a German American neurologist, whom my mother had known back in Germany, and his American wife who was a psychologist. Childless they had loved me and treated me as their own, and though I had my mother, had promised to send me through college and kept that promise! After 5 years I got my Bachelor of Fine Arts with a minor of Early Childhood Education. For five more years my life then drifted from one thing to another, until the blessed day when at last I came to Sri Sri Thakur in February of 1970! Though always feeling welcome to stay with my “foster parents” or my own mother, who stayed in the States for 6 years, still I felt I had been uprooted and my roots were somewhere but not with me!

However staying for 15 months with Sri Sri Borda changed all that! At first we had stayed with the Indian family of our American Ritwik Ray Hauserman, who were kind enough to cook for us and let us sleep in their already quite crowded house. Then Sri Sri Borda announced that he was planning to build a house for us! This was very good news and we were looking forward to having our own place. In the meantime we moved repeatedly, first to the government compound across the street, where in one of the little houses the ceiling leaked during the rainy season, then to the hospice near Manomohini Dham. We met wonderful devotees: the then Secretary of Satsang Nani da Chakravarty, who often regaled us with uplifting stories. David formed a close relationship with the then Assistant Secretary of Satsang Baikunth Prasad Singh, who had many inspiring stories to tell. Coming from a wealthy family who were owners of vast mica mines he found himself completely paralyzed at one point and had to be carried to Sri Sri Thakur each time. One day he overheard Thakur explaining to an engineer to “get yourself welded”. For some reason this advice impressed Baikunthda enormously. After hearing it, he felt he had gotten healed! He said nothing, but after he had arrived home, he locked all the doors and began to dance! He had indeed gotten healed!

Then David met Dr. Peary Nandi, Sri Sri Thakur’s personal physician. David was fortunate to spend 2 days and nights in Kolkata in the company of that great devotee! And a memorable time it was! For one, Dr. Peary hardly ever slept! Already quite elderly at the time, with eye and hearing problems, Dr. Peary was filled with divine energy and fervor! He spent most of the night meditating. When David during the night silently wished he could see the photo of Thakur on the wall, Dr. Peary would shine his flashlight on that very photo for David to see it! Peary-da, as he was called, seemed to be continuously in a very exalted and inebriated state of mind! Inebriated with the Lord! “Ananda, ananda”, “Bliss, Bliss, unimaginable bliss!” he would exclaim at various times! And indeed he was in a state of divine bliss most of the time! Dr. Peary shared with David what Thakur had told him. He was responsible for the health of everyone in the ashram, and was to see to it that everyone was taken care of and helped to heal. And then Thakur added: “Your reward for this will be harsh words, ingratitude and abuse!”

Every day we would spend as much time with Sri Sri Borda as possible. This would often consist of four hours in the morning and four hours in the afternoon. At first we were not used to sitting cross-legged, and especially for that long a period of time! Our legs would ache and after four hours we could hardly get up, let alone walk normally!

We thoroughly enjoyed Sri Sri Borda's company. It had magnetism for me that can hardly be described in words. His glance was very loving. And as soon as we came to see him he would have us sit right in front of him. Then he would indicate to me to repeat the Holy Name! My concentration was quite poor in those days. But with his guidance I made every effort to repeat the Name. We would arrive and he would raise his head in a certain way and I would know that he was reminding me to make Name! I tried repeatedly, and failed repeatedly. Yet I did not give up.

One time I was getting quite restless and wondered how much longer it would take for us to move into the new house. I had a "private" with Borda and enquired about this. At my question he became quite firm and told me, "Three or four months is not too long to wait!" I realized I was getting too impatient and he, out of love for me, wanted me to know I needed to develop a lot more forbearance and tolerance for this kind of situation!

In the fall 6 or 7 other Americans arrived, who had been initiated by Ray Hauserman. Some of them were friends of ours, including Neil Selden and his wife Lee. By then "our" house had been completed and furnished with beautiful tables and chairs, beds, mosquito netting etc. The furniture was made by the Satsang carpentry shop which was still functioning in those days. Everything looked just wonderful and we were delighted to move in!

Sometimes we would forget to lock the front door and would come home to huge heaps of cow dung on the floor! Sometimes we had rickshaw drivers banging on the metal locks of the doors because they thought they could get more money out of the "sahibs"!

One day one of our American friends, who had many fine qualities along with a very persuasive nature which sometimes bordered on being domineering, asked David to come to the market with him. David was exhausted and should have said 'No'. Instead he agreed. That day Sri Sri Borda had asked Pranab Roy, a good friend of ours, to tell me to repeat "No pains, no gains" ten times. When Pranab translated this for me, I did as I was asked to do, having no idea why he wanted me to repeat these words. The very next day I came to see the connection: David came down with a very severe bout of typhoid, the effects of which lasted over 4 years! His temperature stayed 103 degrees for about 2 weeks and we thought he would meet his Maker! And it was Sri Sri Borda who had prepared me that if we want to make progress in the spiritual world we must never run away from hardships, troubles and adversity of every kind!

By His grace Borda sent Pranab Roy and Arun Ganguly to the house to entertain David with stories of Sri Sri Thakur! Both individuals were master story tellers and their presence and uplifting jaajon contributed a great deal to his gradual healing.

This incident indicated to me that I still at a long way to go before acquiring peace of mind and equanimity! A long way! It also served as an incentive to get attached to the Permanent in my life. What was that Permanent? None other than Sri Sri Thakur!

In the spring of 1971 we found ourselves in a rickshaw going toward Thakur bari when we noticed another rickshaw moving in the opposite direction. A sahib was sitting in it! I had determined not to do anything out of guilt or obligation. So we ignored the sahib and went toward Thakur bari and the thatched room where we wanted to sit with Sri Sri Borda. As soon as we arrived Borda looked at us and in a plaintive voice said to us: "Now he is gone!" At once we realized he was referring to the sahib! We jumped up and decided to try to find him. Taking the first rickshaw we could find we went toward Deoghar. We had no idea where this new sahib might be staying but Sri Sri Thakur had other plans. He guided David immediately to a certain hotel where indeed the sahib was staying, who turned out to be none other but our good brother Kerry Brace! Then we heard the story from him how he had found out about the ashram in a round about way! Having worked in the Peace Corps teaching English in Afghanistan he had wanted to find a more spiritual environment, or perhaps even a teacher, being especially interested in Buddhism. Then he talked to a girl from the Peace Corps who had heard from a couple on a bus that they had just spent several wonderful days in this ashram in Deoghar where this beautiful man resided with whom they spent considerable time! This couple who so enthusiastically spoke to her was our old Encounter day friends Lloyd and Shoshana Churgin, who had taken a trip to India and had stopped by the ashram to see us! Sri Sri Borda had lavished Lloyd and his wife with his loving attention and even a huge tray of delicacies had been delivered to our door when they stayed with us, which was just around Thanksgiving! One of the effective and nurturing ways to win the hearts of people is to feed them with delicious morsels and especially prepared foods! There had been a loud knock on our door but we had decided to ignore it as there had been many such knocks by rickshaw wallas in the past! But the knock had persisted to the point when we could no longer ignore it! Who stood by the opened door but a messenger from Sri Sri Borda with a large dish of tasty food! Our joy knew no bounds and our friends were greatly impressed by Borda's thoughtfulness! Other interactions with Borda confirmed to them that this was indeed a most special person! When they had to leave they told everyone, including the girl that Kerry knew, what a wonderful ashram this was!

This is the way the Lord decided to work it out! We tried to persuade Kerry to come to stay in the house with us! This was easier said than done! But by His grace he did eventually for some time come to live in the house that Borda had fixed up so beautifully for us and other sahibs. Sri Sri Borda had captured his heart and his plans to leave the ashram did not materialize, at least not for a long time! Borda at once enlisted Kerry in the translation work, something Borda knew he would be outstanding at, having been English major at John Hopkins University! Arun Ganguly also became

involved in the translations and worked side by side with Kerry for several years. They collaborated writing several books together as Borda had requested them to do!

It was during that time when heavy translations were going on in front of Borda that he suddenly said, looking at all three of us that because of our faith he wanted to start the Ligate again. The Ligate had been started initially by Edmund J. Spencer, the first American disciple who came to Thakur. Spencer, as he was called, or Spencerda, came from a millionaire family in New Jersey and had been in the American Field Service in Burma in World War II. It was in 1945 when Spencer first heard about Thakur and came to meet Him in Himaitpur. His enthusiasm subsequently persuaded Ray Archer Hauserman, also active in the American Field Service, to see for himself who that man Sri Sri Thakur was!

So Spencerda had begun writing the Ligate, in a newspaper format, filling it with stories and experiences about Sri Sri Thakur, even being the person who thought of the original name "Ligate" which comes from Latin and means to "reconnect"! Somewhere in our storage boxes we still have copies of those ancient Ligates, carefully published by Spencer. But then for some reason he had discontinued this publication. So when Borda said he wanted to publish it again it was wonderful news to us!

There were several incidents, actually innumerable incidents that stood out during our first stay with Borda. One took place while several other Americans were visiting. One day Sri Sri Borda was walking toward me and fingering the golden necklace that Sri Sri Thakur had given to him, said to me: "Do you like this?" I was perplexed. At that time I did not at all like jewelry, so I didn't know what to say. Upon consideration I thought, "well, it is fine for him to wear it but not for me", and I told him so. Then I reflected again, wondering if he wanted me to get one like that. I said, "Do you want me to get one like that? Upon my question he became very grave and in a gruff tone replied: "You just leave that up to me!", walking off swiftly as he said so! It may sound strange but that very firm and gruff tone of his gave me immense satisfaction, pleasure and contentment! My family had always been hesitant to be firm with me, feeling sorry for me that I didn't have a father and "normal" family. As a result many times when they should have been strict with me they were not! Well, Sri Sri Borda made up for all those years of having no one who put his/her foot down with me! I felt great happiness, knowing how much he understood me and with his gruff tone of voice created more happiness than if he had been ooing and ah-ing over me, praising me up to the skies! I could see, he did not want me to be spoiled. He could see the importance of limits and he was fearless about it, not caring if I approved of him or not, whereas my family did not have his courage! They cared always what I thought about them and did not want to risk being disapproved of by me!

Some days went by when all of a sudden he presented me a gold necklace similar to the one that he himself was wearing! I was really astonished and awed and also felt great gratitude to be given such a gift by one whom I regarded so highly! As fate would have it, after a few days suddenly one of the links of the necklace broke! I was totally heartbroken about it, and ran to him to show it to him! He took it from me and I

did not hear any more about it for a few more days. One day several of us Americans were sitting in front of him. Suddenly he took out a necklace and presented it to one of the American women whom we knew. Then he took out the necklace that he had previously given to me which had since been fixed and gave that to me again.

One might think that I would be happy with the way things turned out. But I was not! Instead I was upset because the person who had received his necklace was not at all surrendered to Borda or all that eager to be in his company! I knew that for a fact. Her attachments were elsewhere. Yet he gave her a necklace the way he was giving one to me! How could that be?! In my opinion she did not deserve it! Not at all! A million thoughts swirled around in my mind and it was a period of great adjustment! In the Bible it says that the sun shines on good and bad alike! Borda had been demonstrating this by giving away a necklace to someone who was certainly not greatly attracted to him, and another necklace to someone, me, who certainly was GREATLY attracted to him! Ah, what a lesson it became! One of forgiveness, of not finding fault, that the Lord loves you whether you love Him or not etc. It demonstrated Borda's unconditional love and courage. He did not care if this American woman loved him back. All he did was he did for his Lord and out of love for Him! And if she did not care about him very much, it meant nothing to him! He was beyond anyone approving of him or disliking him and it made no difference to him! Once he said, "Some people say that Borda is great and some people say he is garbage. It is all the same to Borda!" Borda was a rock, ever steady, unmovable and ever steadfast He was unwavering in purpose, loyalty and resolve, unfaltering, resolute, firmly committed and ever constant to his Lord! To be in his loving, holy and steadfast presence was a rare privilege that exalted the mind and raised it toward the highest realm—that of Sri Sri Thakur!

So our first 15 months in Borda's presence were filled with many learning experiences. Borda, like his father Sri Sri Thakur, was a master of the human psyche. He understood at a glance past, presence and future of each person, and knew how to speak, when to speak and when not to speak or how to act with each one who came to him! Sometimes a mere glance would suffice to bring about adjustments. Once a certain quick raising of his eyebrows in my direction had me convulsed with laughter for what seemed a long time! Whatever contact we had with him, was the right contact at the right time! It was by the grace of Thakur alone that we were able to sit with him for days, months and eventually for more than a year! We spoke no Bengali. No translations were going on for our benefit. Yet we felt such a magnetic attraction that we had never felt toward anyone in our entire life! We did not miss the fact that we could not understand what words were spoken. We could see by the expressions of others what was going on and we were satisfied with that!

We returned once again in 1976 when Gabriel was 2 years old, proud to show him our son, as Borda had requested us to have this child whose birthday was the same as his!

In 1986 we returned once again when Gabriel's health was deteriorating. It was also at that time when Borda gave permission to Asoke (Sri Sri Dada) to give initiation to Gabriel.

After Borda's demise we began our relationship with Sri Sri Dada, who was then the Acharya. The resemblance to his father was totally astonishing and both David and I kept calling Dada "Borda". We couldn't help it.

The support Dada showed us began when Gabriel was suffering from serious health problems, asthma, fibromyalgia, numerous food allergies, constant headache, you name it, he seemed to have it. Sri Sri Dada helped us survive this very difficult time of our lives. His letters were always filled with encouragement, cheerfulness and optimism. Later the handwritten letters became email. Every step of the way we felt his support and love!

He took a very personal interest in Gabriel and did everything possible to bring about his healing, knowing fully well what a challenging illness we were dealing with. From 2003 to 2004 Gabriel spent 7 months in his loving presence, which most certainly contributed to his gradual healing! Drop by drop we could feel that amidst the ups and downs, the pain, the indigestion, the terrible side effects of his medications, still there was an undercurrent of hope, that all would be well in the end, that yes, Gabriel would with time lead a normal life, have a normal day, a normal job, drive a car etc. These were all things we had given up on ever seeing Gabriel do! Yet by His great mercy, and Sri Sri Dada being His great instrument of love and shining hope, all these things did materialize with time and persistence!

Last but not least we came to realize that death will eventually knock on everyone's door! But when David became ill with a rare blood disorder, it never occurred to us that the knock would come so soon! We were convinced it would not come to us for a long time. Being Satsangis, having Thakur, we thought it could not happen to us! Dada knew our thinking and his great compassion guided him to deal with this inevitable situation in the most existential way! He did so through his encouraging and also scolding tone that we must read and MATERIALIZE the last saying of Message Volume 1, and shout instead, be cheerful, and be attached thoroughly and completely to the Ideal, the Beloved "Whose love enters unquestionably top to bottom whatever you may be—saint, rogue, sufferer, criminal or sinner—pervading all!

"Install Him with all your purpose, with all your love and emotion, with all the resources you have; neglect to fulfil the narrow sordid interests from the universe in which you dwell; only think of Him, think how to fulfil His interests,—move on doing and dealing accordingly—elating everyone with the message of love, hope, charity and service that exalts! Put thine ear to the throbbing impulse of environment and hear attentively the lingering music of the inner microcosm with a rolling peaceful concert, a singing thrill—

Peace, Peace, Peace—be ye Peaceful!"

This was his message to us and accordingly we had to act! We had to do it and we managed, by His grace to put that message into ACTION! We survived the unsurvivable! We stayed positive in the midst of death knocking on the door! This we could only do because Dada was there behind us, guiding us every step of the way! Alas, when the time came for David to meet his Maker, we had remained optimistic for 2 years! Can a good habit be broken so easily!? Indeed it was impossible to break it even at that point!

But we must say one thing which strikes me of utmost importance. It is not possible to materialize Thakur's messages **unless a person makes Name, and meditates and spends time in the company of the Acharya!** All three are necessary! Every one of us will sooner or later experience adversity, from illness, to frustration, rejection to death. None of us are exempt. Sooner or later we will have to face any or all of the above! This is the human condition. He came to prepare us for this inevitable human condition. He came to give us the Name. If constantly repeated it will bring about many wonderful results, such as keenness of mind. The dictionary defines "keen" as "finely tuned and able to sense minor differences, distinctions or details" and "quick to understand things." What an immense treasure house gets opened up through repetition of the Name!! We will also experience other blessed states of mind such as equanimity, focus on what is right and what comes first, in other words prioritizing, knowing right from wrong etc. And He through His Holy Name will guide us toward Him according to our natal distinctiveness, our uniqueness. The Name must be repeated at all times, until there is no gap! If we want to receive the full Blessing that our Lord wants to bestow on us, we must do that, or always be in the process of trying to master that! There will be no inner mastery, no center unless we do as He asks of us! In addition we must take time to meditate regularly and gradually increase that time, so we put Him first in all our doings. If we do that, along with making sure we take the time to be with our Acharya we must reach a state of mind which will bring great fulfillment to us! He is the Great Fulfiller of the age. He wants to see us happy, healthy, wealthy, peace-filled, joy-filled and our dormant abilities and talents unfold to the maximum! If we do as He asks from us, we will indeed attain those goals! But we must take the time and make the effort to put Him first, not money, not name or fame or creature comforts, or cravings, or greed or what have you!

May everyone be blessed and guided to have the faith to put Him first with an unexpectant attitude, as He will give us everything and fulfill us in every way and give us even more than we ever dreamt of!



## My Lord (Ocean of Love and Peace)

श्री श्री ठाकुर अनुकूल चन्द्र जी का जन्म 14 सितम्बर, 1888 में शुक्रवार ताल नवमी के तिथि में हुआ ठाकुर जी के माँ का नाम है मनमोहिनी देवी । मनमोहिनी देवी बचपन से ही एक अच्छी साधक थीं। उसी काल में बचपन में सद्गुरु से पाया हुआ नाम में वह हमेशा व्यस्त रहती थीं, तथा ध्यानमग्न रहती थीं। ठाकुरजी के पिता शिवचंद चक्रवर्ती एक अच्छे सज्जन और चरित्रवान पिता थे एवं नार्थ बंगाल के हिमायतपुर में रहते थे। ठाकुरजी की माँ ही उनकी सद्गुरु थीं। जो नाम उन्होंने अपने बचपन में पाया था वही नाम से अनुकूल चन्द्र जी को उन्होंने दीक्षा के माध्यम से अभिभूत किया उसी समय ठाकुर ने अपने माँ को कहा माँ यह तो मैं तुम्हारे गर्भ में था तब से जानता हूँ। जो नाम गर्भावस्था में ज्ञात था वही नाम का चिन्तन साधना से ठाकुर ने अपना जीवन अभिसिंचित किया है। साधना का सबसे ऊँचा स्तर उन्होंने पार किया। वही सद्गुरु ठाकुर एक सर्वश्रेष्ठ महात्मा आत्म-साक्षात्कारी पूर्ण ज्ञानी रूप में परिवर्तित हुए। ठाकुर जी ने शिक्षा पाई और डॉक्टरी ज्ञान भी पाया। जबकि वह मेडिकल वैद्यकीय छात्र थे उसी काल में उन्होंने अनुभव किया है कि जो कोई भी व्यक्ति उनके सामने आता था तब उसकी बीमारी और इलाज उसके लिए दवा उनके मनःपटल पर पूर्ण रूप से उन्हें दिखायी देता था। ऐसी अनगिनत घटनाएं उनके जीवन में घटी हैं जो अन्य लोगों को आश्चर्यजनक अविस्मरणीय लगती हैं। लेकिन यही तो उनकी साधना का रहस्य है। साधना व्यक्ति को पूर्णरूप से ज्ञानी बनाती है। उसी के द्वारा विश्व का रहस्य जाना जाता है इतना ही नहीं 'मैं' की यानि स्वयं की पहचान और परमात्म-शक्ति का बोध और अनुभूति पाई जाती है। व्यष्टि और समष्टि और इन दोनों को आधारभूत जो सर्वश्रेष्ठ परमात्म-शक्ति चैतन्य शक्ति उसकी अनुभूति पाकर साधक पूर्णरूप से आनन्द की प्राप्ति कर सकता है सुखी शांत समाधानी बन सकता है। यही साधना का परिणाम या फल है। जिसे पाने के बाद और कुछ पाने के लिए रहता ही नहीं। लेकिन इसके लिए जरूरत है "सत्नाम" की तथा सद्गुरु की।

आज की 21वीं शताब्दी में मानवीय जीवन सबसे ऊँचाई के स्थान पर पहुँचकर सबकुछ हासिल करना चाहता है। जीवन सुखी बनाने के लिए वैज्ञानिक संशोधन किया जाता है। हर क्षेत्र में यह संशोधन चलता रहता है। परिणाम स्वरूप व्यक्ति का भौतिक जीवन अनगिनत साधना से भरा हुआ रहता है। उसी के माध्यम से सुख-सुविधा वह हासिल करना चाहता है कर रहा है।

आज के दिनों में कम्प्यूटर, मोबाइल, टेलीफोन, हवाई जहाज से यात्रा – इन सारे माध्यमों से व्यक्ति कहीं भी जा सकता है। मोबाइल के माध्यम से टेलीफोन के माध्यम से दूरी समाप्त कर बात कर सकता है तो कम्प्यूटर द्वारा सब तरह की जानकारी हासिल कर सकता है। इतना सब होते हुए भी जब की हर रोज न्यूज-पेपर हम देखते हैं तो अपघात, खून, चोरी डकैती, बम-विस्फोट, नैसर्गिक आपत्ति, स्त्रियों की आरू लूटना इतना ही नहीं तो छोटी-छोटी बालिकाओं के साथ भी यह खिलवाड़ होता रहता है और यह देखकर मालुम होता है कि आज भी व्यक्ति का जीवन अस्थिर, असुरक्षित है। राजकीय, वैद्यकीय, शैक्षणिक क्षेत्र का भ्रष्टाचार जीवन को ध्वंस कर रहा है। और हर एक के मन में यह विचार आता है कि क्या हम अणु-युद्ध की ओर जा रहे हैं? अनेक समस्याओं से घिरा हुआ यह जीवन अशान्ति का शिकार है। आर्थिक असन्तोष की डोर में व्यक्ति बँधा जा रहा है। व्यक्तिगत जीवन, सामाजिक जीवन कहीं भी देखें तनाव ही तनाव (stress) है। इससे व्यक्ति का आरोग्य नष्ट हो रहा है।

क्या इस समस्या का कोई उपाय है? क्या करने से जीवन आनन्दमय, सुखी, शान्तिमय, समाधानी ओर स्वास्थ्यपूर्ण बन सकेगा? कोई भी ऐसा ज्ञानी विचारवान, आदर्श व्यक्ति है जो मानवी जीवन को इस कीचड़ से निकाल सकेगा उसे आत्मशान्ति प्रदान कर सकेगा?

हाँ निश्चित रूप से मार्गदर्शन करने वाला जीवन, उत्क्रान्त उन्नत करने वाली, समाज को एक आदर्श, नैतिक जीवन प्रदान करने वाली ऐसी एक शक्ति आज भी है। उसी शक्ति का नाम है श्री श्री ठाकुर अनुकूल चन्द्र चक्रवर्ती। जो आज शरीर रूप में हैं नहीं लेकिन उनकी दी हुई विचारधारा और उसी विचारधारा में चलने वाले उनके सुपुत्र सत्संग के आचार्य थे। उनके सुसंतान श्री श्री बड़दा जी। जो हमेशा कहते थे जो—जो ठाकुर जी ने बताया है वह सब मेरे लिए है और उसी रास्ते पर मैं आजीवन चलता रहूँगा। क्योंकि मुझे परमपिता पर विश्वास है कि यही एक सच्चा रास्ता है। ठाकुर जी का दिया हुआ जीवन प्रणाली का जीता जागता जीवंत प्रतिमूर्ति वह थे। और उनके द्वारा ठाकुर जी के अनेक आश्रम बनाए गए। जिसका अधिष्ठान ठाकुर जी थे। इन्हीं आश्रमों द्वारा अनेक लोगों को मार्गदर्शन मिला और मिल रहा है।

आज यही धारा उनके सुपुत्र वर्तमान आचार्य श्री श्री अशोक दा से परिचालित हो रही है। सत्संग आश्रम द्वारा समाज के लोगों को मार्गदर्शन मिल रहा है और जिन्होंने इस सत्संग के सत्नाम का आश्रय लिया है उनके जीवन में बदलाव आया है। उनका जीवन उन्नति तथा शान्ति की ओर निश्चित रूप से जा रहा है।

क्या है इसका रहस्य? वही सत्नाम जो ठाकुर जी ने जपा है वही सत्नाम सबके लिए दिया है। व्यक्ति जीवन का पूर्णरूप से निरीक्षण करने के बाद ही वृत्ति नियंत्रण करने को बहुत प्रयास लगते हैं तो वृत्ति—प्रवृत्ति देखकर उसको इस प्रकार नियंत्रित करने को सोचा है जिसके द्वारा व्यक्ति कार्यशील तो रहेगी लेकिन वृत्तियों का शिकार न होते हुए प्रवृत्ति नियंत्रण कर जीवन जीना सीखेगा। इसलिए यजन—याजन, इष्टभृति, स्वस्त्ययनि, सदाचार इनके माध्यम से जीवन को परिचालित करने को कहा है। यजन है सत्नाम जपना। सुबह—शाम निश्चित समय निर्धारित कर और अन्य समय काम करने, चलते—फिरते सत्नाम जपा जा सकता है। यही यज्ञ से व्यक्ति का जीवन बदलना शुरू होता है। सत्नाम जपने से उसके हर एक रक्तपेशी पर उसका परिणाम होता है। उससे ऊर्जा निर्माण होती है। उसी ऊर्जा के माध्यम से मस्तिष्क की रक्तपेशी उत्तेजित होती है। निर्णय लेने की क्षमता, उचित निर्णय लेने में सहायक बनती है। प्रवृत्ति नियंत्रण होने लगता है। व्यक्ति यह समझ सकता है सुख—शान्ति समाधान बाजार में मिलनेवाली कोई चीजें नहीं हैं। वह व्यक्ति को उसके अन्दर से प्राप्त होना है और उसके लिए सत्नाम यह एक चाभी (Key) है।

‘याजन’ है एक सामूहिक यज्ञ। यज्ञ किया जाता है इच्छापूर्ति के लिए। जो कुछ व्यक्ति ‘याजन’ के माध्यम से पाता है उसी आनन्द के अनुभव का वितरण दूसरों को वही आनन्द देने के लिए करना ही है याजन। दूसरों के स्वास्थ्य के लिए प्रयास करना, दूसरों को सुखी समाधानी बनाने का प्रयास का फल खुद के लिए भी पाता है। यही समष्टि याजन स्वरूप यज्ञ है। इष्टभृति यह है सर्वसमर्पण। हमारे जीवन को परिचालित करने वाली जो एक असीम सत्ता है, अविनाशी सत्ता है जो सार्वजनिन सर्वकल्याणकारी, आनन्दमयी है जिसे हम देख नहीं सकते लेकिन वही चैतन्य शक्ति परमात्म शक्ति हमारे अन्दर आत्मतत्त्व के रूप में प्रतिष्ठित है। उसी तक पहुँचने के लिए ही है नाम साधना। यही नामसाधना एक सारमथ्यदायी योग है जो खुद ठाकुर जी ने हर व्यक्ति के लिए परिचालित किया है। व्यक्ति एक दिन अपने आपको, उस आदर्श को, उस परमशक्ति को व खुद को समर्पित कर सकता है। समर्पण मे है एक असीम शक्ति। समर्पण का फल है आनन्द। उस समर्पण के लिए उस परमेश्वर के प्रति पूर्ण

प्रेम चाहिए, अनुसंधान चाहिए और इस अनुसंधान से अर्न्तमुखी होने की कला जानना चाहिए। यही अर्न्तमुखता आती है स्वस्त्ययनि व्रत से। स्वस्त्ययनि व्रत व्यक्तियों को अर्न्तमुखी बनाता है। इस देह के अन्दर अंतःकरण में छिपी हुई परमात्म शक्ति का तथा आत्मतत्व का बोध होने लगता है। चित्तवृत्ति में बदलाव आता है। चित्त शांत विक्षेपरहित होकर शुद्ध सात्विक बनकर उसका अनुभव करने लगता है।

जिस प्रकार दैनंदिन जीवन में शरीर की निगा व्यक्ति रखता है हर तरह की साबुन कास्मेटिक्स का उपयोग करता है उससे उसका बाहरी सौन्दर्य बढ़ता है लेकिन व्यक्ति के लिए अंतःकरण शुचिता की आवश्यकता है।

इसलिए शारीरिक सदाचार, मानसिक सदाचार, बौद्धिक सदाचार का महत्व ठाकुर जी ने बताया है जिससे व्यक्तिका सत्वगुण बढ़ता है। भौतिक ऐश्वर्य की क्षणभंगुरता, आत्मिक आनन्द की वास्तविकता सत्यता उसे मालूम होने लगती है जिससे व्यक्ति का बदलाव तृष्णा का एकान्त निर्वाण महाचेतन समुत्थान में होता है।

परमेश्वर निर्मित इस सृष्टि की मानव यही उत्क्रांति की परिसीमा है। जिसने बुद्धि विवेक पाया है। यही विवेक बुद्धि उसका जीवन यशस्वी बनाने में सहायकारी है। श्री श्री ठाकुर जी ने कहा है मेरे पास अर्थ, मान, यश इत्यादि प्राप्त करने की आशा से मुझे ठाकुर बनाकर मत आइये। सावधान रहिये, जब तक तुम्हारे अन्दर का ठाकुरत्व जागृत नहीं होता तब तक तुम्हारा कोई केन्द्र नहीं है, ना ठाकुर है। आप ठगे जाओगे।

यह ठाकुरत्व जागृत होना, हमारे अन्दर का केन्द्रीभूत शक्ति का परिचय पाना, अनुभूति पाना, यही है साधना। इसी में दुख, क्लेश, जन्म, मृत्यु की समाप्ति है। जीव का मिलन शक्ति से होता है। आत्मा का परमात्मा से। यही मानवीय जीवन का अन्तिम गन्तव्य स्थान है। यहां पर कैसे पहुंचना, यह सिखाने की पाठशाला है सत्संग। जहां सतनाम मिलता है। ठाकुर जी कहते हैं कि सत्संग का आश्रय करो, सतनाम लो, शरणपन्न बनो, मैं निश्चितरूप से कहता हूं आपको आत्मोन्नयन के लिए, शांति समाधान पाने के लिए कहीं जाने की जरूरत नहीं।

श्री श्री ठाकुर जी इस वैज्ञानिक युग के एक ऐसे महापुरुष हैं। हम मानते हैं कि समाज कल्याण के लिए ही वे अवतरित हुए हैं। वही सर्वश्रेष्ठ परमात्म शक्ति जो कहीं दिखाई नहीं देती लेकिन उनके अस्तित्व के आधार पर यहीं दृश्य सृष्टि परिचालित होती है। उसी अविकारी, निराकार मंगलमयी कल्याणकारी, सार्वजनिन शक्ति का व्यक्त रूप है श्री श्री ठाकुर अनुकूलचन्द्र जी। जिन्होंने व्यक्ति के जीवन का पूर्ण निरीक्षण कर जीवन उन्नत बनाने के लिए साधन दिये हैं सतनाम, यजन, याजन, इष्टभूति, स्वस्त्ययनी, सदाचार।

जीवन के हर क्षेत्र के लिए व्यक्तिगत, कौटुम्बिक, सामाजिक जीवन की समस्या के लिए मार्गदर्शन किया है। आरोग्य, विवाह, सुसन्तान, दाम्पत्यजीवन, सामाजिक, राजकीय, आर्थिक जीवन, शैक्षणिक जीवन, स्वास्थ्य स्थिरता, सुरक्षितता, वैज्ञानिक संशोधन, उद्योग के लिए उनके विचार दूरगामी श्रेष्ठ हैं। जिनके आचरण करने से जीवन में यश, कीर्ति, आनन्द, मान-सम्मान इत्यादि सब कुछ मिल सकता है और सुख-शांति समाधान का मालिक बन सकता है।

हर एक समस्या का निराकरण उन्होंने किया है। ठाकुर जी ने केवल तत्वज्ञान नहीं दिया। उस तत्वज्ञान का वैज्ञानिक माध्यम से उसका अर्थ, समाधान, कारण उन्होंने बताया है। और वैज्ञानिक स्पष्टीकरण दिया है, यही उनकी विशेषता है।

ठाकुर जी के पास आने से व्यक्ति सब कुछ पा जाता है। क्योंकि वहीं हैं आनन्द के समाधान का महासागर। आइए, आप अपनी जीवन नौका इस महासागर में डाल दीजिए। उसी सत्नाम के द्वारा वह नौका परिचालित कीजिए और भवसागर को पार करके यहां आनन्द के सागर में खुद को विलीन कर दीजिए।

ठाकुर जी के द्वारा दी गई शिक्षा यही एक अद्भुत शक्ति है। जीवन को बनाने की। यहीं धरा पर स्वर्गीय सुख पाने की। सारे क्लेश, दैन्य दुःख, चिंता को मिटाकर व्यक्ति के अन्दर जो यह शक्ति हर समय उपस्थित है उसे पहचानने की, अनुभव करने की क्षमता पाकर अपने आपको कृतार्थ बना दीजिए।

आइए – उत्तिष्ठीत जाग्रत प्राप्य वरानिबोधत्

ठाकुर जी की तत्वप्रणाली जानने के लिए सत्संग हर एक व्यक्ति को आमंत्रित करता है।

मेरे अनुभव से मैं निश्चितरूप से कह सकती हूं कि ठाकुर जी के विचारधारा में व्यक्ति ठगता नहीं, बनता है, बनकर पाता है।

इसलिए मेरे ठाकुर ही हैं प्रेमसागर, आनन्दसागर। आइए – इस महासागर का बूंदप्राशन कीजिए और वहीं बन जाइए।

वन्दे पुरुषोत्तमम्

**Mrs Vidya Joshi, India  
At present - San Diego**

## New Manner Of Thinking

Chandrasekhar Basuri

The World is undergoing a severe crisis. It is a complex and multi dimensional crisis touching every aspect of our lives - our health, social relationships, quality of our environment, our economy and politics etc. It is a crisis of intellectual, moral and spiritual dimension. World has piled up thousands of nuclear weapons, enough to destroy the entire world several times over. The arm race continues quite aggressively. In 2006, world spent about US \$1200 billion on arms when 862 million people in world are hungry and they do not have access to enough food. Nearly 6 million children die of hunger every year. Recently at the Rome summit, FAO (Food And Agriculture Organizations of UN) director Dr. Diouf appealed to world leaders for US \$30 billion a year to relaunch agriculture and avert future threats of conflicts over food. He noted, "How can we explain to people of good sense and good faith that it was not possible to find US\$30 billion(2.5% of world's defense budget) a year to enable 862 million hungry people to enjoy the most fundamental of human rights: the right to food and thus the right to life?" Countries are spending aggressively on arms to increase the national security, but the world has never been so insecure. We have failed to identify and relate our own existence and interest with the rest of the world. Though science has advanced, our picture of the world has not changed. We still believe in the Newtonian mechanistic world view, where world is seen as a multitude of *separate objects* assembled into a huge machine. We always think of our own existence and happiness in an isolated manner, ignoring the existence and happiness of others. There is a feeling that we can exist and grow happily at the cost of other's existence and happiness. But this is an illusion. We tend to acquire wealth, knowledge and power etc. to keep ourselves content and happy, but it is important to realize that we can be truly happy only when everyone is happy.

I came across an article, titled "Rethinking the Meat-Guzzler", published in the New York Times on January 27, 2008. Author Mark Bittman discusses the devastating impact of meat consumption on ecology of the world. Here is an excerpt from that article: "Global demand for meat has multiplied in recent years, encouraged by growing affluence and nourished by the proliferation of huge, confined animal feeding operations. These assembly-line meat factories consume enormous amounts of energy, pollute water supplies, generate significant greenhouse gases and require ever-increasing amounts of corn, soy and other grains, a dependency that has led to the destruction of vast swaths of the world's tropical rain forests. Just this week, the president of Brazil announced emergency measures to halt the burning and cutting of the country's rain forests for crop and grazing land.

At about 5 percent of the world's population, we (Americans) "process" (that is, grow and kill) nearly 10 billion animals a year. Growing meat (it's hard to use the word "raising" when applied to animals in factory farms) uses so many resources that it's a challenge to enumerate them all. But consider: an estimated 30 percent of the earth's ice-free land is directly or indirectly involved in livestock production, according to the United Nation's Food and Agriculture Organization, which also estimates that

livestock production generates nearly a fifth of the world's greenhouse gases — more than transportation ... if Americans were to reduce meat consumption by just 20 percent it would be as if we all switched from a standard sedan — a Camry, say — to the ultra-efficient Prius ... Though some 800 million people on the planet now suffer from hunger or malnutrition, the majority of corn and soy grown in the world, feeds cattle, pigs and chicken. This despite the inherent inefficiencies: about two to five times more grain is required to produce the same amount of calories through livestock as through direct grain consumption, according to Rosamond Naylor, an associate professor of economics at Stanford University."

Now coming back to our illusion of happiness, can we ever live in peace and happiness, when billions of animals (lives) are killed and millions of people die of starvation every year? There is no escape from the pain and agony of these deceased animals as it is bound to knock our peace and happiness. It is just that we are not conscious of it, which is expressed in our anger, greed, anxiety and frustration etc.

Sri Sri Thakur used to say "My happiness is incomplete as long as you are unhappy, and your happiness is incomplete as long as I am unhappy." Modern physics explains it as it reveals the basic oneness of the universe. According to modern physics, world cannot be decomposed into *independently existing* smallest units. As modern physics penetrates deep into matter, nature does not show any basic building blocks but rather appears as a *complicated web of relations*. Dr. Fritjof Capra, a physicist, explaining the findings of modern physics mentions: "The universe is a unified whole that can to some extent be divided into separate parts, into objects made of molecules and atoms, themselves made of particles. But here at the level of particles the notion of separate parts breaks down. The subatomic particles - and therefore ultimately all parts of the universe cannot be understood as *isolated entities* but *must be defined through their inter-relations*." Sri Sri Thakur's definition of Dharma reflects this basic oneness of the universe. Sri Sri Thakur says in Bengali: "*Anye baanchaaye nije thaake dharma boli jaanis taake*" (**To live and help others live is Dharma**). For long, Dharma has been popularly thought of as a very private affair and something to be practiced in seclusion, in jungles and caves. But in Sri Sri Thakur's philosophy, serving environment (*jaajan*) is an integral part of Dharma. According to Sri Sri Thakur we get all the resources to nurture ourselves from environment, so it is in our own interest to keep the environment healthy, to protect and nurture it. Most of Sri Sri Thakur's discourses and verses urge us to serve others (environment). Here are a couple of them:

Do serve everybody  
in the name of thy Lord  
at least anyone of your environment  
for his life and growth  
with an auto-initiative hearty smile,  
devout effort  
and every skillful move  
guarding against evil,

inspiring him with hope, charity  
and love for good and God,  
activating him to do similarly  
for others,-  
thus have glory  
with every blessed bliss;  
remember-  
this habit is one of the eminent ascetic practices  
for your acquisition.

[The Message, Vol-III]

The chief indication of life is consciousness,  
and this consciousness comes into being  
from the impact of environing life;  
and out of that comes the upward movement  
of the mind of integrated passion;  
again, this mind  
by considering the favorable and the adverse,  
directs a person;  
so if you really desire to benefit  
your progress, your mind, and your life,  
then through your service  
make your environment such that those  
who compose it become healthy and strong,  
abundant in life and delight!

**- Chalar Sathi**

Sri Sri Thakur could not consider anyone as "others"; for Him everyone is part and parcel of His own being. Once when He was a young man, He was riding a horse drawn cart. At one point, the driver lashed the horse with his whip, and Sri Sri Thakur groaned. It was seen at that moment that red welts appeared on His back as if the whip had hit Him. It's His universal love and selfless service that has brought changes in the millions of life, in their taste and attitude. It has made millions of people with distinct characteristics *inter-interested*. This *inter-interestedness* (new manner of thinking) is essential for the humanity to survive; otherwise we will end up in a race killing each other. Einstein puts it in better words: "A human being is part of the whole called by us universe, a part limited in time and space. We experience ourselves, our thoughts and feelings as something separate from the rest. A kind of optical delusion of consciousness. This delusion is a kind of prison for us, restricting us to our personal desires and to affection for a few persons nearest to us. Our task must be to free ourselves from the prison by widening our circle of compassion to embrace all living creatures and the whole of nature in its beauty. The true value of a human being is determined by the measure and the sense in which they have obtained liberation from the self. We shall require a substantially *new manner of thinking* if humanity is to survive."

**Bande Purushottamam!**

## THIS WORLD

Late David Lichtgarn

Below you will find an exchange of emails between David and our Dutch friends Ina and Leo Frantzen who were first introduced to us by their Ritwik whom we met in Deoghar one year. He gave us their address and told us he had initiated them in Nepal where they were traveling. We contacted them and by Thakur's Grace, though never having met this lovely couple in person, a lively correspondence ensued over time.

Ina and Leo emailed the following to my late husband David Lichtgarn in April 2004:

Dear Dave,

We read so many violent things in the newspapers. Watching TV we saw so many violent things, e. g. Iraq, Israel and so forth. You must have seen them as well. Can this world be changed for the better? Do reformers have the answer?

Look back and see what happened in the past 2000 years.

Jai Guru,  
Ina and Leo Frantzen

Here is David's reply.

Dear Ina and Leo,

This world has always been full of wars, pestilence, illness, agonies and so on. It is a great big beautiful mess. The answers lie WITHIN. If every single person on the planet would take care of his inner chaos and transform that into the Cosmos that it is meant to be the whole world would reflect that Cosmic Transformation.

The old Jackie Gleason (American comedian) line holds true: "Don't try to fight the world. It's bigger than both of us."

There is a heaven and haven and resting place and igniting place and source of wisdom and inspiration and hope and liberation within. The Prophets all say the same thing that the kingdom of heaven is WITHIN. When and as we adjust ourselves within we have the badge of authority to make significant changes on the outside.

Sri Ramakrishna told a tale at the turn of the century, when the British were the authorities in India. Some local people were disgusted and offended by certain people defecating on the bank of the pond where everyone bathed. No matter how much they protested to the ill-doers no change was made. In desperation they went to the British authorities with their concerns. The British authority put up a sign "Under

penalty of the law create no nuisance!” Immediately the problem was corrected. So Ramakrishna says we need “the badge of authority.”

Thakur spoke of pauper reformism—in which we all adjust our thoughts, words and behavior in a manner that is for our existence, along with our environment and become supremely attached to the Totally Realized Godman of the Present—i.e. Thakur.

My personal experience is this—that there is great joy and perfection, bliss and fulfillment and meaning in all good things within, that is awakened by doing as Thakur says to do, and is especially encoded in deep long sessions of meditation (whether at the time I feel anything or not, but just keep at it long and regularly over long periods of time.) If I am happy and fulfilled I also to that degree influence and effect the environment in a positive uplifting manner, yielding hope, faith, encouragement, optimism and bliss to all I come in contact with. The world is drifting toward perfection and as Sri Sri Borda (Thakur’s eldest son and late leader of Satsang) has said: “Everyone is drifting toward perfection.”

In the depths of meditation time stands still, the inner reality opens and enlightenment comes. Thakur is not for withdrawal or non-involvement or turning off. But it seems that He wants an integral approach of self, Ideal and environment that at once uplifts me and those around me and is pulled and moving upward to the Divine. Thus there is Divine Guidance and intervention that makes a bridge from the earthly realm to the spiritual realm. Thakur said we are to spiritualize the material world. In the sense that I am talking of, if this happens and I am happy, my environment is happy and the Lord is happy.

Pray you are both well and enjoying the splendid beauty the Lord has bestowed on this planet and this wonderfully miraculous human body, brain, spirit and mind that we all have.

Yours in Him,  
David

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## Jag Ke Daata, Jag Ke Vidhaata

Raj Marasini

Jag Ke Daata, Jag Ke Vidhaata  
Paramdayalu Thakur Mere

Dhanya Dhanya Yeh, Jiwan Hamara  
Mile Satguru, Aur Sahara  
Kripa Ke Sagar Thakur Mere

Jag Ke Daata, Jag Ke Vidhaata...

Janam Janam Rahoo, Das Tumhara  
Manzil Meri, Charan Tumhara  
Gyan Ke Sagar, Thakur Mere

Jag Ke Daata, Jag Ke Vidhaata...

Usha Nisha Mein, Dhyaan Tumhara  
Jape Ye Maan, Satnaam Tumhara  
Prem Ke Sagar, Thakur Mere

Jag Ke Daata, Jag Ke Vidhaata...

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### व्यवसाय की पंचनीति

- 1- नियमित इष्टभृतिपरायण होकर अन्तर-बाहर से मधुर सेवाप्राण सद्व्यवहार।
- 2- दैनन्दिन हिसाब-पत्र उन्नतमुखी लाभजनक परिचालना।
- 3- प्रत्यक्ष पर्यवेक्षण।
- 4- जबान के खिलाफ न जाना।
- 5- लाभ का अन्ततः 1/4 अंश नियमित मूलधन में याग देना।

—श्री श्री ठाकुर

## ‘Sat’ ‘Gu’ ‘Ru’

Preeti Marasini

‘Guru’ is made of two words ‘Gu’ meaning Darkness and ‘Ru’ means Light in Sanskrit. So, the One who helps you emerge from Darkness to Light is a ‘Guru’.

There can be many Gurus but there can only be One World Teacher, One Purushottam, One Divine Teacher, and One Satguru at a time. They descend to this earth to guide humanity to good, to hold our hand and show us the right path. And The Purushottam for ‘Kalyug’ (Current times) is Sri Sri Thakur Anukulchandra.

When someone asked Sri Sri Thakur, where has the Divine Teacher come and how to recognize him, Sri Sri Thakur said softly, “**Perhaps, He sits today, gorgeously simple, wisely foolish, and abnormally normal, in some neglected corner of the world and with an atom bomb of love in His hand.**” Yes, Sri Sri Thakur was **gorgeously simple** yet there was a light/aura emitting from his body. He was usually clad in a white simple dhoti and kurta. He had a divine smile and there was an unexplained attraction, a pull when people saw Him.

Sri Sri Thakur was **wisely foolish** for loving & accepting everyone who came to Him. People from all walks of life used to come to Him- be it scientists, doctors, thieves and criminals, ministers, lawyers and a simple officer. Some came to test Him, few others to judge Him, some came to surrender their lives and some came to get solutions for their problems. There were rich and the poor who came to Him. There were Hindus, Muslims, Sikhs, Christians who sought His shelter. Once, 2 Muslims brothers came to Sri Sri Thakur and asked Him to take them in His shelter as they did not agree with the principles of Islam. Sri Sri Thakur asked them to go back and read the Holy Quran, try to understand it and then come back to Him again. The 2 brothers did so and when they came back, that is when they were initiated. Later they said that Sri Sri Thakur helped them become a better Muslim.

Sri Sri Thakur loved all equally and wanted to make this world a better place to live. He cared about every bird, animal even plants and trees. Once, Sri Sri Thakur saw a lizard on the wall. Close by he saw a man carrying a basket of fruits and vegetables on his head. Sri Sri Thakur called for that man and asked him to put the basket in front of him. The person did so and in a moment another lizard come out from the basket and crawled on the same wall next and stopped next to the lizard already there. Can you believe that He even knew what a lizard desired? Imagine how much love He would have in His heart.

Sri Sri Thakur was a child sometimes questioning & wondering about every small thing and the very next moment He would explain every small atom that existed. He was ahead of His times and could scientifically explain chemicals, radio waves, molecules.

Sri Sri Thakur was definitely ***abnormally normal*** as He descended wearing a human body. Since He had a human body, He went through body pains; fell sick, delight and happiness just like us but do not mistake Him for being normal like us. There were times when Sri Sri Thakur would go into trance and his body would become lifeless. Doctors checked him at such a stage and said that He had no pulse or heart beat running, yet He would give Divine Messages in different languages, even the ones that He did not know in normal times. During a trance when his Holy Body was lifeless there were some people who put hot iron under his feet to check to see if He was alive or just pretending. Sri Sri Thakur never stopped loving them.

The Satsang came into existence in a small village in Pabna (Now in Bangladesh) and later Satsang moved to Deoghar, India. Pabna and Deoghar were *neglected corners of the world* where there were many people suffering due to poverty, illness, political and religious unrest, many struggling to give food or education to their children. Sri Sri Thakur came and showered everyone with His love, guiding principles and eventually Satsang evolved around Sri Sri Thakur. Slowly Satsang became an independent yet inter-dependent body and started to have machinery/generators to get electricity, research centers, schools, small factories, hospitals. Currently in Deoghar, Satsang has research laboratories where herbal medicines are made using formulae derived by Sri Sri Thakur and Sri Sri Borda (Sri Sri Thakur's son). Some of the best scientists and researchers work there. There are schools and colleges run by the best teachers. There is a hospital which treats all patients and it is run by very good doctors and there are many more such establishments.

Sri Sri Thakur held an *atom of love in His hands*. He wanted people to love and follow the principles for being and becoming. He touched and changed lives. Once, Sri Sri Thakur asked an astrologer to look at the lines in the hand of the disciple sitting near Him. The astrologer looked at the disciple's hand and with a sad face told Sri Sri Thakur that the disciple will not live long as he has a short life line. At this, Sri Sri Thakur held the hand of the disciple and covered it with His palm. And then again Sri Sri Thakur asked the astrologer to look at the disciple's hand. The astrologer was shocked because the line on the palm of the disciple had extended. And that dear disciple is old and living a healthy life today. Such is the love showered by Sri Sri Thakur.

And if you ever get a chance to talk to Satsagees, you will hear how Sri Sri Thakur have touched each ones lives, saved them in adversities and guided them in storms of confusion and pain. Sri Sri Thakur loves us unconditionally. Later Sri Sri Borda showed and cared the same way and today Pujyapad Sri Sri Dada and Pujoniyo Babai Da are caring and loving all of us unconditionally.

Once a disciple asked Sri Sri Thakur to guide him on how to lead his new life, at this Sri Sri Thakur said, "Follow the foot steps of Lord Krishna and walk in the path of Chanakya, with active devotion like Lord Hanuman."

*All instances and examples in this article are referenced from different publications, experiences shared by individuals.*

## THE PROPHET HAS COME

Gisela Lichtgarn

The Prophet has come once again,  
Oh bend your knees  
And bow your heads to Him  
With humble heart repeat His Name  
As swiftly as you can!

Rejoice! He loves you, wants your good  
In every sphere of life  
This never doubt!  
Do as He says,  
Forget all fear and strife!

With humble heart repeat His Name  
As swiftly as you can!

Name, Thakur, Love—  
All are the same come from above  
He's come here to deliver us  
From pride, greed, anger, and such!

With humble heart repeat His Name  
As swiftly as you can!

Sri Sri Dada leads the way  
To Him Who is all Love  
Let's serve our Dada  
Love our Dada  
For he is from above

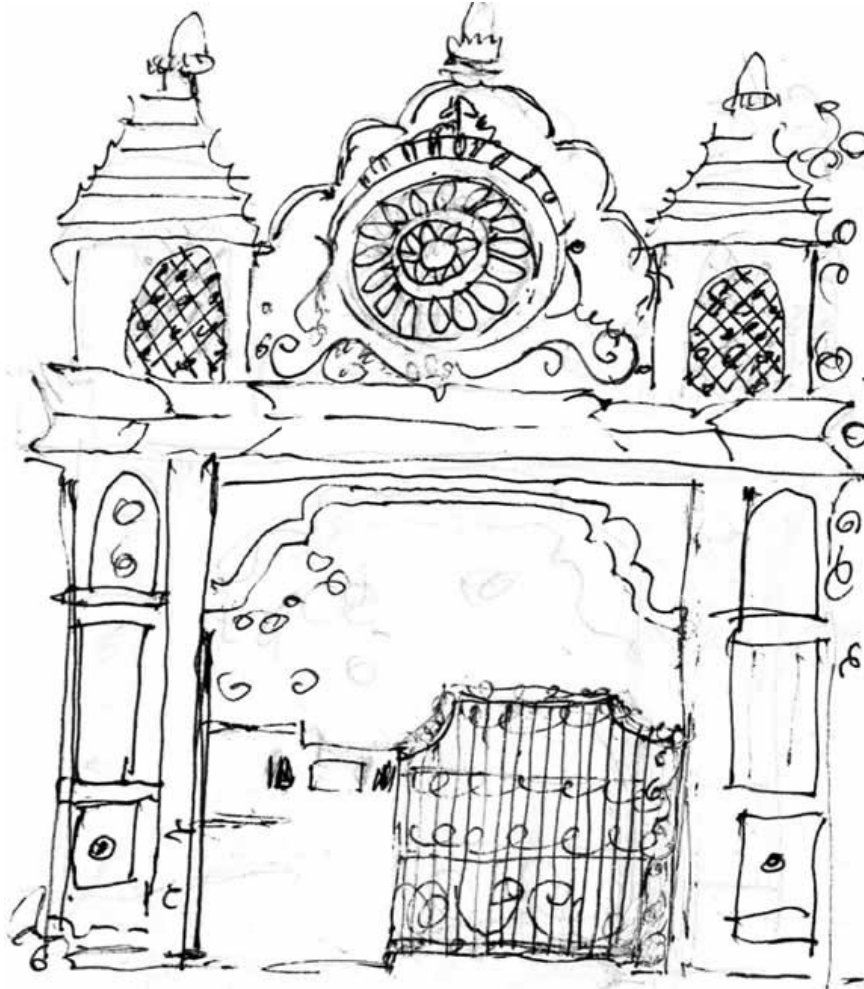
With humble heart repeat His Name  
As swiftly as you can!

If we want Thakur  
Let's serve our Dada,  
See him and talk with him  
Ever one with the One,  
He will guide us to Him!

He's peace, He's joy, happiness  
And bliss  
Fulfillment, enfoldment of  
highest potential  
He makes the little fish swim upstream,

While the elephant floats downstream!  
He makes the blind see,  
And the lame scale the mountain!  
Is anything too difficult for Him!

With humble heart repeat His Name  
As swiftly as you can!



The sketch of the SriMandir Gate by Gisela Ma

## Unceasing, Perpetual, and Interminable Leela Of Sree Sree Thakur AnukulChandra through Acharya Continuum

Asis Basu, SPR

We often wonder who keeps sending the 'Yugh Avatar' (Descendant of the age) to this world. In the case of Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra as 'Purnavatar' (complete and ultimate descendant), we have to go no further if we adhere and relate to what Prophan AcharyaDeva explained to me last fall in Deoghar. It was a November morning in the Natmandap last year.

Prophan AcharyaDev Sree Sree Dada clearly defined the difference between the terms 'Avatar' and 'Avatari.' He narrated 'Avatari' as the sender and 'Avatar' as the one who is 'Prerita'(the one being sent). Sree Sree Thakur Anukulchandra in this case is both 'Avatar' and 'Avatari'. It becomes clearer to comprehend why a realized anonymous Sadhu more than 120 years ago proclaimed that Purushottomam (Fulfiller the Best) this time was coming with Leela Sahacharis who would themselves be 'Avatars'.

During one of my solitary trips to *ThakurBari* (Sree Sree Thakur's residence in Jharkhand, India) in 1980's, I was blessed to witness Sree Sree Borda. It was nothing but divine. He was a normal 'Sadhu' (Performance Person) who just performed every action according to the divine will of Sree Sree Thakur AnukulChandra.

He used to walk all the way for the Morning Prayer session to *Thakurbari* from *Soroshi Bhavan* (Sree Sree Borda's private residence). Often He used to spend some time with the devotees in the Kharer Ghar (thatched room) before the prayer. There He prescribed medications for the diseased, wisdom for those who needed it, and courage for the weak souls. He also had many generic solutions that were being broadcast from His holy mouth for solving eternal crisis.

One early dawn we few brothers were waiting for Sree Sree Borda for Him to come out from His residence. With a clockwork precision, Sree Sree Borda came out like a bright star in His super white attire. In that very early dawn, Sree Sree Borda really looked like a "God-Gifted representative of ParamPita". I could not stare away from Him for even a moment. It is hard to explain the gleaming, shimmering, scintillating personality of Thakur's Boro Khoka in the middle of still entrenched darkness. Each of us was speechless for sure but definitely communicating among ourselves the ecstatic aura around Sree Sree Borda. He started walking after He literally looked at each person's face. We followed Him silently. I heard the word tranquility. This would be the exact facsimile moment for the word "tranquility", if described.

The Ashramites trained us to make 'naam' along the route through *Paharbari* (Part of the Uphill ridgeway from southside of Ashram to Thakurbari) . Anyway, as soon as we had started walking behind Him, He stopped by the Red and Silver Letter Box of The

Indian Postal Service. We also screeched to a halt and then retreated a bit. Then Sree Sree Borda, without a spoken word, actually turned the faucet that was leaking.

None of us (about twelve) could realize that the water was dripping very slowly. The last person, who used it, must have been careless not to turn it tightly. Such was the active lesson from Sree Sree Borda. He did not say a word, nor did He show any different body language of anger, or wrath - instead taught all of us a good lesson, being exemplary. In today's so called "environmentally friendly" society, I still witness a lot of preventable waste of renewable and non-renewable resources without any remorse.

The next time I visited Ashram was in the deep summer of 1980. I worked for an Indo-British Company in the entire Eastern region. Dhanbad, Bihar was the capital of Indian refractory industry. Consequently, I had to frequently visit the area and attend seminars in Indian School of Mines for educational purposes. I was in marketing and sales and I completed my monthly quota in rupees within a few days. My manager told me ahead of time that if I could sell RS. 200, 000 in a month that would be a record sale. This would actually exceed the expectation of the Eastern Regional office.

I, having bagged that sale by the end of the first week, called my boss in Kolkata about the good news. He gladly informed me that I could enjoy the next two weeks as earned vacation. I took a taxi cab to Dhanbad from ISM Campus and rode a nightly express bus to Deoghar to reach there the following morning. It was midmorning as I entered the Holy Land of *Thakurbari*. Sree Sree Borda was enjoying kirtans sung by *Sraddheo* Nani Gopal Chakravarty Da in the Boro *Natmandap* (structured open air building for devotional assemblage).

After I finished offering my pronams to Sree Sree Thakur and Sree Sree BoroMa, I bowed down to Sree Sree Borda and I saw Him lovingly gazing at me. The kirtan was followed by Prasad that comprised Luchi (Puri), Aloo-Kumror Tarkari (Potato-Calabasa curry), and Sooji (Cream of Wheat). I saw the enormous sense of discipline the devotees displayed by helping others to enjoy Prasad ahead of themselves.

Later I came to learn from my Ritwik Devata Ajit GargulyDa that this disciplined approach and selflessness was inculcated by Sree Sree Borda Himself. When AjitDa informed Sree Sree Borda about my elongated stay in Ashram and the purpose of my visit, He lovingly acknowledged and conveyed the nodding approval to me. He enquired about where I was staying and if I was experiencing any problem.

For the next two weeks I was in His Holy Company every morning, evening, and night. I went back home heavy-hearted bearing the uneasy pain of missing Him. When I was departing, Sree Sree Borda gave me permission to come and visit the Ashram whenever possible. "**Jakhoni Somoi Pabe, ThakurBari Chole Asbe**" (whenever you find time, you must come to Thakurbari).

I sensed an amazing pull to see Him ever since and I went to Durgapur Navabarsho Utsav in West Bengal the following spring. It truly was a sizzling summer. For example, it took about 30 to 40 minutes to cool the *Khichoori* (A traditional Indian meal that contains cereals and veggies) Prasad after it was served on the dried herbal plate. Sree Sree Borda's skin was glowing in that scorching summer that can be compared with a naturally ripened New England strawberry.

He was running a high temperature in His body, yet He offered the '*Darshan*' (visitation) to the devotees. I could sense that He was suffering, but he sat for us, so we could all enjoy His company. The Durgapur Utsav was a huge success and it created a metabolic urge among the participants to work in Cohesion and with loving spirits to adhere to Sree Sree Thakur's Principles of life and growth.

I frequently made many short visits to Thakurbari in between my work schedules and I got sheltered by Pujiyapada Sree Sree Dada in the process. It was 1983. Sree Sree Dada was in the tea stall within the Premises of Hospice. Prior to coming to the tea stall, I offered my pronam to Sree Sree Borda, Sree Sree Ma, and RangaMa. I would have to go back to Kolkata that evening. When I saw Pujiyapada Sree Sree Dada in the tea stall, I was very happy inside. It seemed that He gave me Darshan out of special love. It was time for me to go to USA in the next few days. He realized that it would be a while before I could come to India and see Him in Thakurbari. Hence the darshan.

He very pleasingly and radiantly exclaimed, "***Tor Indo-American poshak ta bhaloi hoichhe***" (Your Indian-American clothes have turned out good). I had a khaki chino and white Satsangee kurta on.

Then he kept on talking to me for about two hours outpouring His love and grace on me. One notable piece of advice to me was, "Never indulge in drinking alcohol or beer or any intoxicating substance. Your country of destination (USA) has an abundance of these substances. And one thing leads to another. One vice begets another bigger vice and so on." He also gave me umpteen number of ***Sadupadesh*** (Holy Advices). This included simple things such as "How TOs", "To Dos", "Not To Dos", etc., which are now so obvious to me. This learning process might could take a lifetime to realize the messages of Sree Sree Thakur.

In my 25 years of life in the States, I never slipped from His Holy direction except one episode that caught me unguarded. I was on a summer boat enjoying the Atlantic coast in a beautiful beach in southwest Florida. I saw the bartender was offering free drinks to everyone including children. Thinking it was a normal fruit drink; I took one and started sipping. I kept drinking until almost half of it was finished, when my daughter, Maya, found me and cautioned me that I had been drinking an alcoholic beverage. I could not believe that the bartender would be offering alcoholic beverages to small children. I have to admit, that night was very uncomfortable to me since I surely abused my system with a forbidden drink. Although it was unintentional, it sure was a stupid mistake on my part and a breach of divine contract between Sree Sree Dada and me.

In 1996, (Late) David LichtgarnDa and I were blessed by Sree Sree Dada to become Ritwiks. He gave me six dhotis the day prior to His handing over the Holy Panja to me. As I was overwhelmed by the super gift, He commanded me very affectionately, saying, “**Niye jabi kintoo America te dhutigulo**” (“Make sure you take these dhotis to America.”)

I was grateful to Ashu Gangulyda to teach me how to wear it the next morning to appear before AcharyaDeva in the Satsangee uniform. Later in the day after the Panja ceremony, when I was describing to Rev. Sipaida, He lovingly advised me to use them during my stay in Ashram and also whenever I could do so in America. Sipaida kept on saying, “It is okay to become a US citizen. At the same time, it is not okay to lose yourself as a Bangalee. Do you know why Baba gave you six of them? He wants to see you as a perfect Bangalee.”

It was a brisk evening in Thakurbari in the winter of 2000. We were packing up for this huge trip to Dakshinatyā. Pujoyapada Sree Sree Dada lovingly selected me as one of the caravan members. The trip would be at least three weeks long. Everyone but Rev. Sipaida advised me to minimize my size of baggage.

Only Rev. Sipaida insisted that I should not have to worry about it. “Take your big suitcase. We will accommodate it.”

In the process, most everyone started ragging me lovingly in the dormitory style of an engineering school. Indeed, it was rather improper to carry an international size suitcase, and I was clearly an odd man out. But by an unforeseeable Grace of Sree Sree Dada, that same suitcase was privileged to serve Pujoniyo Abinbabu (Rev. Babaida’s eldest son) in the train.

After our nightly dinner, when everyone was getting ready to catch some sleep, Pujoyapada Sree Sree Dada summoned me and asked me to align that huge suitcase in between two rows of parallel sleepers. The idea was to keep Pujoniyo Abinbabu from getting hurt from an accidental fall on the floor from the sleeper coach in the middle of the night. So the fat soft-top suitcase would work as a cushion (shock absorber) in the case of a fall from the sleeper.

When almost all my fellow passengers trivialized and ridiculed my big suitcase, Sree Sree Dada saved me from a terrible feeling of morbidity. I immensely felt grateful to Pujoyapada Sree Sree Dada and Rev. Sipaida for this quick and easy materials engineering feat. What a blessing!

It was not until mid 1990’s that I started getting personal letters handwritten by Pujoyapada Sree Sree Dada. I received so many gifts in life. However, I consider these letters to be the best gifts I have ever received. Each letter was as if created targeting my countless weaknesses. Each letter is a gem in that it not only addresses my issues that I had and was struggling with, but also had a super solution created by

Him. Whenever I am faced with challenges and tribulations of life, I have this chest of wisdom that I can go to, to find solutions every time I read these.

I still have profound imperfections in my life. Without Sree Sree Dada's active love and blessing, my imperfections would be manifold and possibly outnumber my bag of errors. I would have to go behind a masquerade to hide myself and faking things that I was not. Sree Sree Dada is literally expanding me to greater circles and providing me with the emotional, social, and spiritual upliftment on a daily basis. Had it not been for His everflowing grace and Karuna (kindness only a superior divine being can permeate to a lower individual), I would by this time be destroyed, perished, disintegrated and broken.

I can keep on memorizing little episodes and events like these that took place in my life. For the sake of brevity, I must conclude that Pujyapada Sree Sree Dada is the living manifestations of Sree Sree Thakur. It is truly like the concept of a necklace consisting of beads in various shapes, sizes and colors. Each bead complements the other for being the "total" necklace. Yet each component is self-composed, having distinct and rich quality of its own.

We can only love Sree Sree Thakur if we love Sree Sree Dada at this juncture of time. For without a living embodiment, the devotion and the traction towards Sree Sree Thakur becomes unsustainable. People who realized this truth, realized out of their normal love, normal practice and normal attachment. It is love that transcends us to the right wisdom so we can prosper in the spiritual realm. There exists no other way without having to completely surrender our souls to the Ever Living and Ever Loving PujyaPada Sree Sree Dada.

***"Adyapi Kore Leela Gora Rai  
Kono Kono Bhagyaban Dekhibare Pai".***

(only a few experience His *Leela* (His Embracings and Acceptances), even though He is continuously playing with us).

**Bande Purushottamam!**

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### 1<sup>st</sup> National Satsang Photos



**Nagar Kiran by all Satsangees at 1<sup>st</sup> National Satsang held at Atlanta, GA**

### 2<sup>nd</sup> National Satsang Photos



### 3rd National Satsang Photos



### 75th Birth Anniversary of Sree Sree Dada, Griffin, Georgia



## Observable days in Satsang 2008-09

- Jan 1, 2008 (Tuesday) – Holy 97th Janma-Mahotsav Of Yugacharya Sri Sri Borda
- Jan 9, 2008 (Sunday) - Sri Sri Thakur's Van-Bhojan Utsav At Manikpur
- Jan 27, 2008(Sunday) - Sri Sri Thakur's 40th Mahaprayan Divas
- Feb 15, 2008 (Friday) - Sri Sri Thakur's 40th Maha-Prayan Tithi
- March 21, 2008 (Friday) - Sri Sri Thaku's Holy Dol-Utsav
- April 14, 2008 (Monday) - Nava-Varsha Swasti Maha-Yajna
- May 9, 2008 (Friday) - Sri Sri Baroma's 38th Maha-Prayan Divas
- May 19, 2008 (Sunday) - Sri Sri Baroma's 38th Maha-Prayan Tithi
- May 27, 2008 (Thursday) - Sri Sri Takur's Holy Snan-Utsav
- June 2, 2008 (Monday) - Birthday Of Janani Sri Sri Manomohini Devi
- July 29, 2008, (Tuesday) - Sri Sri Baroma's Holy 115th Janma-Tithi Mahotsav
- July 30, 2008 (Wednesday) - Sri Sri Baroma's Holy 115th Janma-Divas
- July 31, 2008 (Thursday) - Sri Sri Borda's 15th Tirodhan Tithi
- Aug 5, 2008 (Tuesday) - Sri Sri Borda's 15th Tirodhan Divas
- Sept 2, 2008 (Tuesday) - 63rd Agaman Divas Of Sri Sri Thakur At Deoghar , Starting Of Anukulabda-63
- Sept 9, 2008 (Tuesday) - Holy 121st Avirbhav Tithi Utsav Of Sri Sri Thakur
- Sept 15, 2008 (Monday) - Holy 121st Avirbhav Divas Of Sri Sri Thakur
- Oct 11 & 12, 2008, (Saturday & Sunday) - Holy 121st Janma Maha-Mahotsav Of Sri Sri Thakur
- Oct 21, 2008 (Tuesday) - Holy 76th Janma-Divas Of Acharyadev Sri Sri Dada
- Nov 1, 2008 (Saturday) - Holy 76th Janma-Tithi Utsav Of Acharyadev Sri Sri Dada
- Nov 21, 2008 (Friday) - Holy 98th Janma Divas Of Yugacharya Sri Sri Borda
- Nov 28, 2008 (Friday) - Holy 98th Janma-Tithi Utsav Of Yugacharya Sri Sri Borda
- Dec 31, 2008 & Jan 1, 2009 (Wednesday & Thursday) - Holy 98th Janma-Mahotsav Of Yugacharya Sri Sri Borda



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**Best Wishes For The 4<sup>th</sup> National Satsang....**



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