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Reiki Vidya Niketan

VOLUME 5 ISSUE 8

AUGUST 2013

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Guru Purnima— Some basic issues.

In the last issue we just talked about Guru Purnima and its importance in the path of spiritual process. One of the most confusing questions that I have come across during my toddling on this path for the past 20 years is What exactly is Guru Purnima? What does one celebrate? Does the day belong to the Master (Guru) or to the disciples (The shishya)? Whose celebrations are these? I do not really look to this question with much seriousness for the simple reason that there are more serious questions that this to address. The basic questions are Who is the Guru? And Who is the shishya? Unless one gets the answers to these questions, there is no point in answering the earlier questions at all.

Guru and Shishya are actually reflections of each other. Guru evolves only when the shishya evolves. No wonder that traditionally it has been said that when the shishya is ready, the master arrives. The Master does not arrive from outside. He is already there, but not in the form of a Master. He may at the most be teacher till that moment. So is the student. The student becomes a disciple. Disciple emerges from the student, the way butterfly emerges from a caterpillar. Just as an egg becomes a larva and then pupa and then it becomes a caterpillar. Then comes the stage of a beautiful fully grown butterfly. The disciple also has to go through this life cycle. The moment an ordinary seeker becomes a student, then a sadhak and then a disciple. Disciple is very demanding position. One needs to be disciplined to become disciple. Then comes the Master who has also gone through a cycle of metamorphosis.

The Master and disciple actually resonate at the same frequencies of thoughts, emotions and ideation. If either of them fail to resonate at the same frequencies, they can not stay attuned. The relationship ceases to be a Master and a Disciple. Then what remains is an ordinary relationship between two persons, at the most a teacher and a student. The divinity gets lost. The relationship falls from the great heights.

What are the disciplines one needs to observe? The first and foremost is the condition of surrender. If a disciple is not in surrender he ceases to be a disciple. That is the mandatory condition. Total surrender means a total freedom from ego. That makes it a difficult proposition. Ego is something which can not be got rid of so easily. No wonder we hardly find any disciples around a Master though the Master may have a lot of followers and adoring people around him. Disciples have to pass through a lot of tests, created by himself/herself. The Master does not take any tests. Master at the most can create situations for disciple to understand where he or she is. Guru Purnima in reality is only a situation for one to assess oneself.

Guru Purnima 2013 Celebrations



Shri Swami Samarth



Mai with Swami at devrukh

The policy of RVN to rotate the Guru Purnima festival gave the honour of celebrations to Baroda. The centre management rose to the occasion with flying colours. The day long celebrations began at 8 am sharp on the morning of 22nd July with 5 Omkars. This was followed with a Rudra Swahakar performed by 5 young sadhaks from Baroda. Thereafter



Padukas at Devrukh

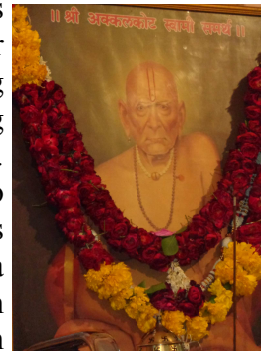


Sadhaks who performed

the sadhaks present created 5 circles representing 5 continents in the world and chanted 5 Omkars. The same circles then sent Reiki to the whole world and prayed for Peace, Harmony, Health and Happiness to everyone.

Dharini Somani, our young sadhak from Baroda performed a dance item to offer salute to the Master Principle in an unique way. This was followed by a Questions and

Answers session where sadhaks asked various questions related to spiritual practices and their applications in day to day life, to Guruji. While answering these questions Guruji, touched upon various matters going into the depth. This session was followed by a grand lunch. The afternoon session started with a Reiki bhandara offered to senior citizens as a gesture of gratitude towards elders. This was well received by a group of senior sadhaks who came in a big way to attend the function. The young sadhaks from Baroda had enacted a drama which was converted into a film and presented in the afternoon. The small film of about one hour highlighted the issues related to spiritual practices. The film brought about a theme that Ego and Selfishness are the two major barriers on the spiritual path and also emphasized the role of Reiki in attaining the balance in life.



Decorated Dais

The evening session created a sort of history in the tradition of Lord Dattatreya devotees. A dream of having a Gujarati version seen by saints & seers like Shri Vasudevanand Saraswati and Rangavadhoot Bapa was fulfilled by our own sadhak from Rajkot – Mrs. Pratibhaben Joshi. After a marathon efforts of 2 and half years

she could complete the task of translating 750 pages and almost 8000 verses of this divine book. The first copy of this book was uncovered on this evening, in the presence of some revered personalities in Datta tradition including trustees from Garudeshwar, Shri Avadhoot Joshi, Mr. Pattankar etc. This was a proud moment for our sadhaks and was well appreciated.



The large gathering at Baroda

Devrukh also celebrated the day with a lot of enthusiasm and vigour.

“Imbibe teachings of Guruji in life and life will become celebration”

Krupa Choksi

This year we celebrated Gurupoornima on 22nd July, 2013 at Baroda. In the morning, there was a question answer session during which Guruji said, “I will receive Gurudakshina when all of you would imbibe my teachings in your life.” This statement went deep into my heart and I started introspecting to find out whether I have really imbibed his teachings in my life? If yes, then I can never be unhappy. Guruji always says, “Decide for once whether Swami is there with you or not”. If we believe Swami is there, then whatever happens in our lives is the wish of Swami and we should accept it happily. We do not have any right to become unhappy as here we have to understand that it might be due to our past deeds we have this situation in life and Swami wants to negate these deeds by giving small suffering. Or else what we are expecting in our lives is not good for us.

And secondly we should always remember, “Ashakya hi sakhya kartil Swami” but he will do it at his time and if he is not doing it then also it is for our good. We have to wait till the time Swami showers his grace. In this context, Guruji cites another example that if a child has gone out with his mother and in return child reaches home fast due to his energy and speed while mother takes some time. Now if child having reach home first tries to open the door and gets panic if that door is locked and does not open and becomes unhappy, then such unhappiness is self invited due to his sheer ignorance as mother has got keys with her. Here a child should remember that mother is coming in few minutes and she has got the keys which will easily open doors and what best he can do is to wait for some time without getting panic.

In our lives also many times when things don't work, we get panic forgetting that mother (God) can open any door and he is always behind us. And due to this, we become unhappy, restless and many times go into depression. But here if we keep little bit awareness and remind ourselves that Swami/God is with us and will come at an appropriate time and open all locks of our lives then life becomes very easy. And to keep this awareness, and wait till Swami will open the door is nothing but - *sadhana*.

Guruji often says, “Sadhana is nothing but to wait till divine grace descends on us”. And here I would say Reiki, Agnihotra, TM and staying connected with space helps us to keep this awareness that Swami is with us and will come at an appropriate time. Till that time we have to peacefully wait without getting agitate and panicky. And if we are not getting something in life then that is also grace of Swami as he is divine mother who has full vision of our life and knows what is good for us.

I got this message loud and clear that every moment if we keep awareness that Swami is there with us and watching each and every situation of life then we can never be unhappy. He knows our each and every worry so we can celebrate life every moment just like being like a little child who is care-free as mother looks after him/her. We should always remember that we are sitting in the lap of divine mother who knows everything and will give everything at an appropriate time.

Guru Purnima---an auspicious day only too familiar with all eager aspirants on the path to divinity!! A day well spent immersed in the glory of the guru, singing his praise and soaking in the prayers and divine blessings. That sacred night, as I looked up at the moon playing hide and seek behind the clouds, feeling the strong winds blow across the weepy skies I felt totally overwhelmed by the Divine Presence in the Elements!! I felt a pantheon of divinities; Buddha, Rama, Krishna, Christ and all the Gurus who have graced the earth merge into One eternal form that beamed a supernal light from All of Nature!! A flurry of thoughts crossed my mind as I revelled in wonder at that One Supreme force, Guru-God. What I have penned down is the same flow of random thought processes that might appear fragmented.

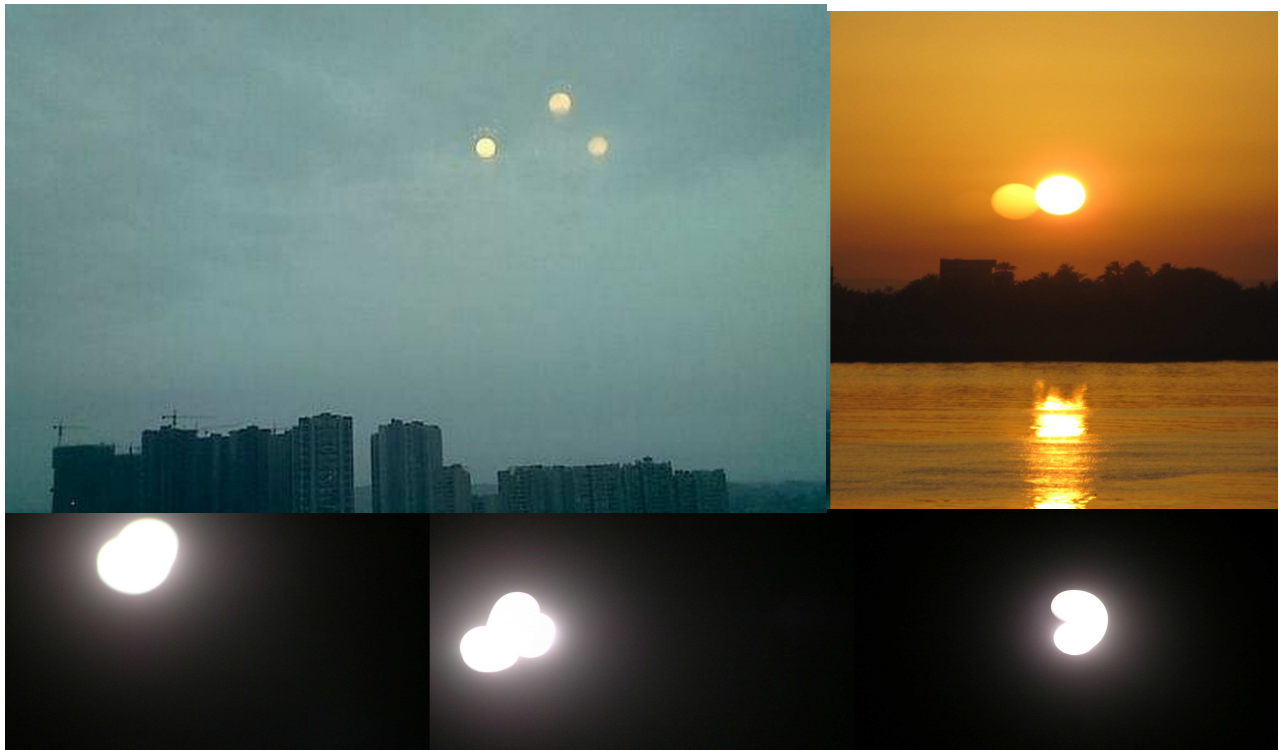
*On the lofty peaks of meditative self's absoluteness
In the stillness and calm of spirit's One
behind thought –clouds smiled a mystic moon
lighting up the serene being of bliss
Silvery beams of obeisance to the mighty sage
motionless and still in thoughts absence
the mysterious night yielded sweet fragrance
a sudden wind rose and lightning flashed
a rumble distant and deep before thunder crashed
the elements ruled in all their might and fury
and in that single moment of fearsome awe
the glory that is thee in wonder I beheld
O Guru, ocean of compassion and mercy
I seek refuge at thy holiest of holy feet
beaten by mind's many tempests and storms
shaken by emotions wayward spiralling extremes
eddy pools of ego threatening soul spirit's calm
I am the earth parched and drought struck
under the pitiless gaze of life's vast sun.
on my fevered brow is thy cooling touch
thou art the spring crystal clear and eternal
thou art the soothing ,reviving rain
that slaketh my thirst and giveth life
I am the aimless wind that needeth thy direction
the blazing fire that needeth thy fuel
the raging floods that needeth thy calming
the widening space that needeth thy force binding
and thou art that force that subdues and masters
reins in the elements so powerful and puissant.
O sovereign being of ever flowing Grace
Let me be the clay soft and pliant
for thee to mould as thou willeth
baked in the kiln of thy compassion
let me emerge a fit lamp for thee*

*in humility burns the wick of aspiration
 steady in surrender, self's flame arising
 casting a soft glow of light divine
 while in the secret chamber of my heart
 sweet longing for thee echoes and thrills
 to every single rhythm and every single beat
 thy supreme name on my lips constant
 in sleep, dream and waking moment
 this little self basking resplendent
 in thy glory serene and effulgent
 thy beauty and love all encompassing
 leaves me in bliss-tears and faith unquestioning
 all illusion flies in the face of thy sole reality
 and this is my prayer as I bow to thee
 Let me be in each thought and deed
 ever remain consecrated to thee
 this feeling heart, mind and reason
 thy conquering love in me emblazon
 Let me be a channel of thy peace, thy radiant light
 Let me be a river of thy ceaseless Love.*

Let us awake to thine day of knowledge and truth supreme.

Let me a garland of many hued fragrant flowers offered at the feet of the Divine Guru!!!

Digambara Digambara Digambara !!!



Reiki Experiences

I am Sejal Modi from Ahmedabad. I did my first and second degrees of Reiki in 2003-04. I practiced reiki regularly for almost 3 years thereafter. But thereafter the daily routine made it difficult to take full body Reiki daily. However I was never away from the space of Reiki. I used to give Reiki to all those who needed that. Even today, I continue taking Reiki whenever time permits and also offer others Reiki whenever such opportunities arise. In last 8 years I have realized that Reiki is giving a life that I always wanted to live. Many a times it so happened that I forgot to send Reiki to those who asked. But later I used to find that my Reiki always used to reach them. Many a times I also realized and experienced that even a small thought of Reiki would make a beginning of a flow of Reiki. In short I always feel that Reiki is like a mother, very compassionate and loving. It brings one's internal powers to the surface. The divinity starts flowing from inside out.

My son was initiated on this path on 2012 in Children's seminar conducted by Bhartiben. I have been observing a massive change in him thereafter- in his studies, his behaviour. He became quite matured. A lot of people close to me got initiated on this divine path seeing changes in me and my son.

Monthly study circles are also helping me to be in the space and I am benefited by that. Last month I attended Mental Method session and found that worked very well. (1) I first did the mental method for managing my fear of driving a two wheeler. I had not even learnt to ride bicycle. I had tried to learn the two wheelers (scooters) for many times but just could not succeed. This was possibly my last try now. I had now decided that if I learn now, else I will never learn. I will not even touch two wheelers in my life. The magic happened the moment I started using Mental method. Without anyone's help, I could manage to ride a two wheeler within 10 days. Now I am proficient to drive this. (2) The second time I tried this noble technique was for my son, who was little weak in studies. Myself and my son worked on an intention that he would get at least 75% marks in the exams. We used this method for 21 days. We had every reason to be happy when he got 73.7% marks in the final exams. (3) Now I am taking one intention at a time and using Mental method. I do it for 21 days and then switch over to the other intention.

Sejal Modi, Ahmedabad

I want to share my experience with you after taking the first degree of Reiki.

My husband (Rahul) and I completed the first degree under the guidance of Bharti M'am on 15th and 16th of June. I always had a headache problem and I always use to take lot many medicines, but lately whenever I had headache I just gave Reiki to all the points of head and I got very much relief and that was without any medicines, so I m very happy even my Husband is also happy after having this course.

We felt with very nice experience, I gave Reiki to my mother-in-law as she had a problem of tennis elbow. I gave her full body Reiki for two days and she also feeling very nice. I gave reiki to my friend and they feel good about it. I always feels motherly feeling whenever I talk with Bhartiben, my Reiki teacher.

We both are very much thankful to this therapy as it brings lot many changes in our lives. We had completed our 21 days and still we continue the practice as now we are willing to take the second degree also. I look forward to an opportunity to get my second degree.

**Snehal Parmar
Ahmedabad**

*I heard something, that you never said..
An unspoken promise, to me, you made,
To love me forever, no matter how I look..
My power, my money aren't in your book!*

*Each day I spent, when you were around,
No limits I had, in joy I got drowned.
In my moments of anger, hurt and despair...
You wagged your tail, and showed you care!*

*Those days, I remember...
When I felt so sad...
So stressed I was,
And you licked my hand!*

*Each time you kept your head on my lap,
It felt like God had entered my trap!
You are my love, my life, my Lord..
to make me smile, you try so hard!*

*We may not live together
Till "I" breathe my last.
But I promise to be with "YOU" forever,
Till "your" eyes are shut at last.*

I have three treasures that I hold and cherish. The first is Compassion, the second is frugality and the third is modesty...

Lao Tsu

If you wish to win, do not compete. If you wish to prove your prowess, do not boast. Simply follow heaven's lead.

It was one of the lazy morning at Devrukh ashram. Guruji was speaking to some of the sadhaks who were residing at the ashram on that day. He was stressing a point that the sadhaks who come from outside-cities and towns– have definitely a better exposure to the world than those residing within Devrukh village. They have better opportunities to learn due to varied events happening around and varied experiences. They should prove to be mentors to the local sadhaks rather than competing with them and trying to prove how much better they are than the locals. Winning does not happen all the time by competing. When you do not compete but only support people to be better than what they are/were, you have already won. Life is a not a race to prove anything to anyone. Especially those who stay for a longer time at ashram may have to be even more careful as generally one can be comfortable with masks that one is wearing, But how long can one hold to the mask? For shorter time, that may not be a problem but for a longer time that may create stressful situations. What is the remedy? One has to purify oneself so much that one does not have to hide any weaknesses. If one has no weakness, what would you hide? And why? If you do not get better and better than what you are, you will be exposing your weaknesses to the others. And when you are full of weaknesses, no one is going to learn nothing from you. What ideals can you set to others? He also advised who have come to perform sewa, first and foremost drop the idea that you have left something to come to ashram. Just nurse an idea that you have come to gain something. And the life will change.

Reiki Seminar Schedule

S No	Dates	Location	Master	Degree
1	3rd & 4th August	Devrukh	Seemaben/ Kalpita	1st
2	3rd & 4th August	Ahmedabad	Bharatiben	1st
3	3rd & 4th August	Baroda	Sangitaben	1st
4	3rd & 4th August	Dombivali	Vishal	1st
5	10th & 11th August	Mumbai	Rakesh	1st
6	10th & 11th August	Thane	Vishal	1st
7	17th & 18th August	Kota	Krupa	1st
8	17th & 18th August	Rajkot	Seemaben	1st
9	24th & 25th August	Madgaon Goa	Ajit Sir	2nd
10	24th & 25th August	Madgaon Goa	Seemaben/Krupa	1st
11	24th & 25th August	Pune	Vishal/Kalpita	1st
12	24th & 25th August	Nashik	Sangita/ Rakesh	1st